

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Northern Ohio Blanket Mills  
Other names/site number: Beckman, Senior & Co.; Beckman & Co.; The Beckman Co.  
Name of related multiple property listing:  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 3160 West 33<sup>rd</sup> St.; 3401 Paris Ave.; 3166 West 33<sup>rd</sup> St.; 3167 Fulton Rd.  
City or town: Cleveland State: OH County: Cuyahoga  
Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D

|  |  |
|--|--|
| DSHPO for Inventory & Registration <span style="float: right; font-style: italic;">May 9, 2014</span>  |  |
| <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>   | <b>Date</b>  |
| <u>___</u> Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Society <u>___</u><br><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b> |  |
| In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.  |  |
| <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>   | <b>Date</b>  |
| <b>Title :</b>   | <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b> |

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Patrick Adams  
Signature of the Keeper

6/27/2014  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

|                          |                          |            |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Contributing<br><u>3</u> | Noncontributing<br>_____ | buildings  |
| _____                    | _____                    | sites      |
| _____                    | _____                    | structures |
| _____                    | _____                    | objects    |
| <u>3</u>                 | <u>0</u>                 | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**  
**Historic Functions**

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: Manufacturing Facility; Industrial Storage  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

VACANT/NOT IN USE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS

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### Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Rolled Steel Industrial  
Windows, Asphalt Built Up Roof System

## Narrative Description

### Summary Paragraph

The Northern Ohio Blanket Mills manufacturing complex is located in the Clark-Fulton west side neighborhood of the city of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. The neighborhood was primarily settled in the mid-1880s by Central and Eastern European immigrants. The manufacturing complex encompasses the entire city block bordered by Fulton Road, Paris Avenue, West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, and St. Rocco Court. Fulton Road is the dominant north/south thoroughfare and is made up of small commercial and residential buildings. St. Rocco's Parish and school reside directly across from the complex to the south. The mostly vacant Northern Ohio Woolen Mills Building is directly east of the building, with small residential buildings located along the north side of Paris Street.

The complex consists of three contributing resources; the original manufacturing facility located in the northeast corner of the block is comprised of three construction phases with the original building constructed in 1889 and additions following in 1891 and 1899-1900. They reside on parcel #00732001 which is approximately 2.21 acres. A two-story storage building is directly south of the original 1889 manufacturing building and was originally constructed as a separate warehouse linked to the manufacturing complex sometime after 1939, outside the period of significance. The 1889-1900 building and additions are post and beam and load bearing masonry construction employing pairs of inverted queen trusses, with turn buckles and cast-iron star shaped anchor plates at each bay. The simple symmetrically designed rectangular L-shaped complex employs classic detailing displayed through masonry corbelling and dentils. The overall condition is fair. The masonry exhibits carbon buildup and compromised mortar. The steel industrial rolled windows are intact and demonstrate neglect. The interior of the building is well intact due to a new roofing system.

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The third resource is the 1910-13 manufacturing building located in the northwest corner of parcel #00732002 which is approximately 1.17 acres. The free standing reinforced concrete building has its own boiler house and round smoke stack. The 1910-13 building was renovated in 2002-03 and is in excellent condition.

The area around the buildings includes paved and concrete lots, minimal landscaping and contemporary green picket or chain-link fencing.

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### Narrative Description

#### **1889 Manufacturing Building, 3160 West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street** (photos: 2, 4-6, 24)

Construction started on the new factory buildings in 1889, immediately following a fire in February of the same year.<sup>1</sup> Manufacturer workers were put to work demolishing the remains of the previous building and constructing the three-story orange brick building at the corner of West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and Paris Avenue. The eight bay façade with projecting masonry piers fronts West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street. The building rests on a stone foundation, with no basement. The slightly recessed bays have brick corbelling at the third floor level. A corbelled brick parapet with stone capping tops the façade. The fenestration is composed of steel industrial rolled windows with vents, placed in three-course brick segmental arched masonry openings with stone sills. A metal plate fills the space between the top of the rectangular sash and the masonry arch. The first floor third bay from the north is defined by the recessed main entry which is in-filled with plywood. The north elevation is composed of eighteen bays matching the east façade in design except for the lack of a parapet. A modified vehicular entry is located at the first floor level sixth bay to the west. A fire-escape is located at the twelfth bay to the west and provides access down from the second and third floors. The building's west elevation is comprised of the 1891 addition. The south elevation is highlighted with the stair and elevator tower set eight bays from the east elevation. The tower has narrow arched windows and is two bays square. It extends beyond the roof by three stories in order to accommodate the elevator mechanisms. A post 1939 concrete loading dock and ramp located at the base of the tower on the east side connects the 1889 manufacturing building to the 1889 storage building. The roof is flat with asphalt built up roof system and new gutters, along with four "dog house" skylights evenly spaced in the center.

#### **1891 Manufacturing Addition, 3401 Paris Avenue** (photos 7-9, 14, 22)

The Brooks Building Company started construction on the addition of the factory in 1891 adjacent to the west elevation of the 1889 manufacturing building.<sup>2</sup> The addition sits on the property line along Paris Avenue, jutting out two bays to the north. The north elevation is twelve bays to the west. The architectural language is consistent with the original building employing the same fenestration and brick detailing. The first floor fourth bay from the east has a recessed vehicular entry and the upper floors display double doors in line with the floor for loading and unloading material and a hoist beam extends out at the roof line. A modified pedestrian entry is

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<sup>1</sup> *Plain Dealer* 4 May 1889; City of Cleveland Building Permit No. 1312, 20 February 1889.

<sup>2</sup> City of Cleveland Building Permit No. 4452, 28 September 1891; Cuyahoga County Tax Duplicate 1892.

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located in the third bay to the west on the first floor level. A fire-escape is located at the west end providing access down from the second and third floors. A one-story boiler house is located at the northwest corner and includes a tapered square smoke stack. The boiler house is three bays along the north elevation. The 1891 addition's south elevation is comprised of the 1899-1900 addition. The south elevation is highlighted with the stair and elevator tower set two bays east of the 1899-1900 addition. The three-story tower is two bays square and the fenestration, occurring at the landings, is consistent with the building. The roof is flat with an asphalt built-up system with two small pyramidal skylights and new gutters. A post 1939 three garage door concrete loading dock with a corrugated roof and ramp is located south of the stair tower. A concrete block infill building is tucked between the stair tower and the 1889 storage building, as a recent addition.

### **1899-1900 Manufacturing Addition** (photos: 9-14, 17, 19)

Builder Charles Moeutk started construction on the second addition of the factory in 1899 and finished in 1900. Mechanical Engineer Benjamin F. Silliman name appears on the building permit.<sup>3</sup> The addition is located at the south end of the 1891 addition and runs perpendicular to the manufacturing building the full length of the lot to St. Rocco Court. The east and west elevations is twenty and a half bays long. The north and south elevations are eight bays wide. The architectural language is consistent with the original building employing the same fenestration and brick detailing. The first floor of the south façade is defined by doorways at the fifth and eighth bays from the west. A fire-escape is located along the east elevation providing access down from the second and third floors. The west elevation is highlighted with a two bay stair and painted corrugated metal elevator tower at the fifth and sixth bays north from the south façade. The roof is flat with asphalt built up system with six small pyramidal skylights and new gutters.

### **INTERIOR** (photos: 25-35)

The interior of the 1889-1900 manufacturing building and additions are consistent on all floors having exposed structural members of lambs tongue wood post supporting seven 2'x 10' packed beams bolted together resting on masonry piers employing paired inverted queen cast-iron rods with turn buckles. The 1889 and 1899-1900 buildings have a row of center posts, while the 1891 building has two rows of posts; however they are slightly off center, with the northern most row in line with the 1889 north exterior wall. The perimeter walls are painted exposed masonry walls; according to the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps the walls were originally plastered. Rolling fire-doors are located between each of the entrances to the adjoining additions and at stair towers. The stair towers have exposed masonry enclosures with utilitarian wood stairs lacking any architectural detail. The main stair in the 1889 building was a double 90° flat turn stairway with the elevator located at the center. The stair has collapsed with remnants of the elevator wood enclosure located within. The first floor has concrete flooring. Sanborn maps indicate the first floors were originally brick. The second and third levels wood packed floors are exposed as ceilings on the lower second and first levels floors. Random contemporary partitions are located in isolated areas and are not historic to the building. The first floor of the 1891 addition has

<sup>3</sup> City of Cleveland Building Permit No. 36277, 20 July 1900.

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brick piers supporting arched openings at the first bay to the east, which is not displayed anywhere else within the complex. The building is equipped with the original sprinkler system. The overall interior and exterior conditions maintain the historic character of the manufacturing complex.

**1889 Storage Building, 3166 West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street** (photos: 1-4, 15, 16)

The Storage Building was constructed at the same time as the main manufacturing building in 1889, and is located to the south and facing West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street.<sup>4</sup> The buildings were unconnected at time of construction and remained unconnected until sometime after 1939.<sup>5</sup> The two-story post and beam masonry load bearing building is utilitarian in design. The building lacks any decorative detail. The five bay façade fenestration consist of arched openings with remnants of 6/6 double hung wood windows. The first floor has two smaller window openings which are in-filled with brick and the main entry located in the second bay from the north is a single man door with a transom. A larger paired opening is located to the south of the entry. The majority of the window openings are in-filled with plywood. The building is thirteen bays deep. The south elevation displays boarded windows and two bays in-filled with concrete block from ground to roof. The north elevation is separated from the original manufacturing building by a concrete ramp and loading dock. The north elevation consists of parged masonry and window remnants, along with modified doorways and some cement block infill. A lean-to corrugated roof supported by metal post and beams are fixed to the building. The roof is flat with asphalt built up system.

The interior of the building displays exposed painted masonry walls. The second floor has been removed, along with any associated stairs. The wood posts are simple and support the roof joists with no beams. The floor is concrete. The interior lacks any architectural character defining features.

**1910-13 Manufacturing Building, 3167 Fulton Road** (photos: 17-23, 36-38).

Construction was completed by Hunkin and Conkey Construction Company in 1913 as a reinforced fire-proof concrete factory building using building plans produced by the Osborn Engineering Company.<sup>6</sup> The three-story orange brick building is square in plan and repeats some of the architectural language of the original manufacturing building. The eight bay square building's façade faces St. Rocco Court. The fenestration is rectangular, lacking the arched openings of the early buildings and consist of replacement sash, the central bay along the north elevation retains original windows which displays operable metal industrial style windows resting on stone sills. The three-story bays have brick corbelling at the top of third story. The dentilated cornice continues around the entire building and the design motif is repeated above doorways. On the facade a projecting contemporary aluminum glass storefront system was added when the building was renovated in 2003. The façade fenestration consists of a single window in the first, fourth and eight bays, while the remaining bays are paired sash. On the west

<sup>4</sup> *Plain Dealer* 13 February 1889

<sup>5</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1912-13.

<sup>6</sup> *Plain Dealer* 3 April 1913; Sanborn, 1912-13.

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and east elevations the south end bays lack windows. A one-story boiler house with a tapering circular smoke stack is located along the east elevation attached to the one-story garage. The remaining bays on the first floor along the east elevation are solid masonry. The north elevation has a first floor entry located at the fifth bay to the south, which is a single door with flanking windows and a transom. The roof is flat with an asphalt built-up system and a contemporary replacement skylight located in the center.

The interior of the building was renovated in 2003 for office use and included opening the first floor to the second and third floor existing atrium. The interior walls of the atrium are in-filled with contemporary fenestration. A new elevator was installed in the atrium. The historic post and beams are visible. The rehabilitation included new mechanical systems, windows, and roofing system, along with new demising walls for offices.

### **Conclusion**

The Northern Ohio Blanket Mills complex is an intact late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century woolen mill manufacturing facility reflecting important aspects of Cleveland's industrial era. The practical and simple industrial design embodies the functionality of the facilities. Most importantly, the mill was intentionally fire rated to protect against the highly volatile woolen manufacturing process, evident through the use of packed beams and floors, sprinkler systems, fire doors and fire-escapes. The mill buildings have retained the original open manufacturing floor plan with characteristic exposed structural systems. The open space lay out allowed for the evolution and adaptation of new equipment as improvements were made in production technology. Large freight elevators and hoist beams along with large freight door openings facilitated the movement of large equipment and stock in, out, and around the complex. The mill building exterior is predominately defined by the large scale and abundant fenestration which provided natural daylight for working hands in the mills. A few ancillary buildings have been demolished, including the 1900 Dye House and the 1909-1910 saw-tooth one-story Drying and Storage building, along with the John and Elizabeth Nelson House, which was acquired in 1904 and adapted to serve as the company office. Is it unknown when these buildings were demolished. Although these razed buildings contributed to the overall success of the mills, the remaining historic resources retain integrity and represent the founding, growth and operation of the largest 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century woolen factory of its kind in the United States and one of the largest in the world.



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### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

INDUSTRY

ETHNIC HERITAGE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1889-1932

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

The Brooks Building Company

Moetk, Charles

Silliman, Benjamin F., Mechanical Engineer

Hunkin - Conkey Construction Company

Osborn Engineering Company

Eisele, Herman

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### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Northern Ohio Blanket Mills is significant under **Criterion A:** in the area of **Commerce and Industry**, for its association with the manufacturing of woolen horse blankets and carriage robes, being the largest such manufacturer in the United States and one of the largest in the world by 1895;<sup>7</sup> and in the area of **Ethnic Heritage**, for its association with enterprising immigrants representing the national growth of the manufacturing industry fueled by the skills and perseverance of German and English immigrants who provided labor and entrepreneurial skills to Cleveland and brought the city into the Industrial Age.<sup>8</sup> In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Cleveland became a busy woolen textile/garment product and woolen manufacturing center. Beckman, Senior & Co. and later The Beckman Co., operating as Northern Ohio Blanket Mills, provided woolen products for the popular late 19th century transportation mode of horse and carriage. With the advent of the automobile by the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the company increased and diversified its product line to include woolen items for use in automobiles, as well as for sleeping porches, lounging, tents and camping, yachting, as steamer blankets and power boat rugs, as well as a large line of bed blankets especially for institutional use. The company remained the largest of its kind in the United States until the mid to late 1920s. With economic downturn leading to the Great Depression and the passing of the company president in 1927, The Beckman Co. resigned to dissolution in 1932.

Northern Ohio Blanket Mills' contributing historic resources represent the founding, growth and operation of the largest woolen manufactory of its kind in the United States and one of the largest in the world during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. "*The Hub*," as the national trade journal for carriage, wagon and automobile manufacturers and dealers and the accessory trades; reported in May 1900 that the Northern Ohio Blanket Mills have "[b]y far the finest blanket mill in the country and very much the largest mill confined as a specialty to wool horse blankets."<sup>9</sup> The **period of significance is from 1889-1932**, beginning with the construction of the Northern Ohio Blanket Mills after the original 1878 building was destroyed by fire and ending with dissolution of the mills in 1932.

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### Narrative Statement of Significance

#### The German Migration

Between 1845 and 1855, more than a million Germans fled to the United States to escape economic hardship as well as the political unrest caused by riots, rebellion and eventually a revolution in 1848 - becoming nick-named "the Forty-Eighters."<sup>10</sup> Unlike some immigrant populations, Germans arriving to America generally had enough money to journey to the

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<sup>7</sup> *Plain Dealer* Historical Archives 1882-1946. Cleveland Public Library, 10 May 1895. Northern Ohio Blanket Mills, *The Hub*, Vol. XLII, No. 2, May 1900. New York: Trade News Publishing Co., 82.

<sup>8</sup> Miller, Carol Poh, Wheeler, Robert A. *Cleveland A Concise History 1796 - 1996*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2cd ed., 1997, 82-83.

<sup>9</sup> Northern Ohio Blanket Mills, *The Hub*, 82.

<sup>10</sup> Andrica, Theodore. "100 Years of Nationalities in Cleveland," *Cleveland Press*. Available at [www.clevelandmemory.com](http://www.clevelandmemory.com).

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Midwest with large numbers settling not only in New York City and Baltimore, but in Cincinnati, St. Louis and Milwaukee.<sup>11</sup> Between 1820 and World War I, approximately 5.5 million Germans came to the United States.<sup>12</sup> With completion of the Ohio & Erie Canal in 1832 and of a railroad network in the 1850s, the City of Cleveland became more attractive to migrating populations, especially for mercantile trades.<sup>13</sup>

Following the national trend, most immigrants to Cleveland from 1830 to 1870 originated from the German states, Great Britain and Ireland. In 1870, the foreign born population of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County consisted of 15,855 Germans, 9,964 Irish, and 4,533 English as the three largest immigrant populations making up 33 % of the population of Cleveland.<sup>14</sup> The German neighborhoods of Cleveland were scattered throughout the city at: Clark Ave./Fulton Rd.; Detroit Ave.; Industrial Valley; Old Brooklyn; Stockyards, Tremont, Central, Mount Pleasant and St. Clair.<sup>15</sup> The Clark Ave./Fulton Rd. neighborhood in which Northern Ohio Blanket Mills is situated, is located on the south side of the city, west of the Cuyahoga River and is bounded by Clark Ave. to the north, West 48<sup>th</sup> Street to the west, Denison Ave. to the south and Fulton, Daley Ave. and Scranton Rd. to the east with allotment and subdivision names such as: Potzenhart & Stephan; M. Althen; J.F. Bairs; J. Grebelys; Brauis & Meyer; Theurer; M. Heisel; and A. Rice.<sup>16</sup>

### Formation of Northern Ohio Blanket Mills, 1878

Northern Ohio Blanket Mills was originally founded by Englishmen John H. Senior in 1878 with capital of less than \$3,000, employing ten people.<sup>17</sup> John H. Senior arrived in America to the Port of New York City in 1871 from Liverpool, England on the ship City of Washington, and was naturalized in Cuyahoga County, Ohio in 1880; bringing with him the English woolen manufacturing tradition.<sup>18</sup> Senior acquired Lot 9 in the A. Rice Allotment at 29 Pleasant Street just south of Clark Ave. in 1878, and shortly thereafter completed a brick structure on the property beginning operation of his blanket mill.<sup>19</sup> In 1880, his brother Luke Senior worked as superintendent/foreman.<sup>20</sup> In 1883, they were listed in the City Directory as "L. & J.H. Senior & Co.," proprietors of the Northern Ohio Blanket Mills along with Frederick Mulhauser, who was also a proprietor of the Northern Ohio Woolen Mills located directly across Pleasant Street to the east.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>11</sup> U.S. History "The Rise of American Industry – 25f.Irish and German Immigration." Available at ushistory.org.

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Bureau of Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970*, Washington, D.C., 1975.

<sup>13</sup> Miller, 49.

<sup>14</sup> Van Tassel, David R. and Grabowski, John J. eds. *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996, 558; Miller, 82; U.S. Bureau of Census.

<sup>15</sup> Cleveland and It's Neighborhoods. Available at <https://sites.google.com/site/clevelandanditsneighborhoods/home/ethnic-groups-in-cleveland/germans>.

<sup>16</sup> G. M. Hopkins Maps, Cleveland City Directories 1874-1898. Cleveland Public Library.

<sup>17</sup> *Plain Dealer* 15 March 1887; Cleveland City Directory 1878.

<sup>18</sup> New York, Passenger and Immigration Lists, 1820-1857. Available at Ancestry.com; Ohio, County Naturalization Records, 1800-1977. Available at Ancestry.com.

<sup>19</sup> Cuyahoga County Deed Richard & Mary Bond to John Senior, 16 March 1878; G.M. Hopkins Map 1881; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map 1886-87.

<sup>20</sup> Cleveland City Directory, 1880.

<sup>21</sup> Cleveland City Directory, 1880.

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During 1881-82 Luke Senior had worked as superintendent/foreman for the Northern Ohio Woolen Mills - owned and operated by Beckman & Co., where he would have become acquainted with Frederick Mulhauser and also Herman Beckman, as owners of the mill along with Edward Hessenmueller and Julius Scheldt.<sup>22</sup> Formed in 1871 with capital of \$40,000, the Northern Ohio Woolen Mills had initially employed 50 people.<sup>23</sup> Over the next decade, the mill grew to become a substantial business capitalized with \$250,000 making wool shoddy and employing 250 people with a product value estimated at \$700,000.<sup>24</sup> In 1887, Northern Ohio Woolen Mills was recognized as "the largest concern of its kind in the United States."<sup>25</sup>

In 1882, Beckman & Co. was dissolved as the co-partnership with Herman Beckman retiring from the firm, and F. Mulhauser & Co. formed to carry on with the thriving Northern Ohio Woolen Mills.<sup>26</sup> Herman Beckman entered a new business joining with John Senior and eventually Luke Senior across the street as "Beckman, Senior & Co." to operate and begin to build the woolen manufacturing business of Northern Ohio Blanket Mills.<sup>27</sup> Herman Beckman was an enterprising businessman, born in Hanover, Germany in 1822 and arriving to New York on June 12, 1848 as a "Forty-Eighter" on board the ship Basserman, coming immediately to the Midwest and Cleveland.<sup>28</sup> When he first arrived in Cleveland he was an owner in Beckman, Weber & Co, retail grocers operating a business at 154 River St. in the City of Cleveland, living in East Cleveland with his wife Marie Wilhelmina and children.<sup>29</sup> In 1886, Herman Beckman, Jr. joined his father Herman Beckman, Sr., John Senior and Luke Senior as owners of the Northern Ohio Blanket Mills, with John H. Senior leaving the company for Leavenworth, Kansas the following year.<sup>30</sup>

Under the operation of Beckman, Senior & Co, Northern Ohio Blanket Mills in 1887 was "in a flourishing condition" with mill capacity of 1,500 lbs. per day and annual product value of \$175,000.<sup>31</sup> The company's wholesale manufactured products included: 5, 6 and 7 lbs. scarlet all wool bed blankets; 6 and 7 lbs. colored bed blankets in seal brown, blue and brown, and mix and silver; an assortment of lap robes in wool and plush; and all grades of square and extra size horse blankets.<sup>32</sup> The manufacturing facility was a three story brick mill building encompassing the entire A. Rice allotment Lot 9 with a footprint of 50' x 168.4'.<sup>33</sup> It was expanded to the north

<sup>22</sup> Cleveland City Directories 1875, 1881-82; *Plain Dealer* 25 July 1882, 15 May 1887.

<sup>23</sup> Cleveland City Directory 1875; *Plain Dealer* 25 July 1882, 15 May 1887.

<sup>24</sup> U.S. Federal Non Population Census, Products of Industry 1880; Beckman & Co. Available at Western Reserve Historical Society.

<sup>25</sup> *Plain Dealer* 15 May 1887.

<sup>26</sup> *Plain Dealer* 25 July 1882.

<sup>27</sup> *Plain Dealer* 25 July 1882; Cleveland City Directory, 1884.

<sup>28</sup> U.S. Federal Population Census; *Plain Dealer* 16 January 1899; New York, Passenger and Immigration Lists, 1820-1857. Available at Ancestry.com.

<sup>29</sup> Cleveland City Directory 1861, 1867; *Plain Dealer* 16 January 1899; U.S. Federal Population Census 1870; *Plain Dealer* 12 November 1894.

<sup>30</sup> Cleveland City Directory 1887.

<sup>31</sup> *Plain Dealer* 15 May 1887.

<sup>32</sup> *Plain Dealer* 3 December 1885.

<sup>33</sup> Sanborn, 1886-87.

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during this time with the acquisition of Lot 8 of the A. Rice allotment on which was constructed a three story brick dry house, including chemical and duster & picker areas which were adjoined by a 10 foot passageway to the existing mill building.<sup>34</sup> A great part of the machinery used for picking, carding and other purposes as part of the manufacturing process was imported from England.<sup>35</sup>

### The Woolen Industry in Cleveland 1861- 1887

The surge of immigrants moving to Cleveland largely from Germany, Great Britain and Ireland, brought with them textile manufacturing know-how, as well as a source of cheap labor from their fellow countrymen newly arriving in America and seeking work. In May 1887, the *Plain Dealer* newspaper reported that “[f]ew persons outside of those more or less directly interested are aware of the growth of the present extensive proportions of the woolen industry in Cleveland.”<sup>36</sup> Beginning in 1861, the German Woolen Factory was the first company to manufacture wool cloth in Cleveland. Located on Ontario Street between Huron and Prospect on Hurlbut’s block and as reported in the *Plain Dealer*, “about three months ago the Germans of our city put their capital together and established a woolen factory calling the same the “German Woolen Manufacturing Company.”<sup>37</sup> The company worked six steam propelled looms making fine cloth, employing 14 hands, and turning out 30 yards of cloth per day. In 1864, the Hays Brothers at 155 Water Street near Superior St. advertised as the “sole agents for the Cleveland German Woolen Manufacturing Co.’s cassimeres, cloakings, flannels, woolen yarn, etc.”<sup>38</sup>

By 1887, it was reported by the Board of Industry and Improvement in Cleveland that the local woolen manufacturers were giving employment to nearly 2,000 people with capital of \$3,500,000 doing a business aggregating approximately \$9,000,000 per year, highlighting Northern Ohio Woolen Mills and Northern Ohio Blanket Mills, located across from one another on Pleasant Street on the southwest side of the city.<sup>39</sup> It divided the local wool manufacturing industry into four categories including the manufacture of: shoddy (waste material from the wool manufacturing process which is restored to use through a chemical); wool; cloaks; and, the jobbing trade.<sup>40</sup>

A concern among wool manufacturers of this era was the removal of the tariff on imported wool, shoddy and rags, as well as abolishment of the weight duty on woolen goods. Due to cheaper labor prices in Europe and especially England, American manufacturers would have a difficult time competing. Northern Ohio Blanket Mills, Cleveland Woolen Mills, and F. Mulhauser & Co. operating as Northern Ohio Woolen Mills were the three major wool manufacturers recognized in Cleveland in 1888, of which the latter two were manufacturers of shoddy.

<sup>34</sup> Cuyahoga County Deed Katherine Kolar to Beckman Senior & Co, 6 January 1886; Sanborn 1886-87; *Plain Dealer* 7 February 1889.

<sup>35</sup> *Plain Dealer* 7 February 1889.

<sup>36</sup> *Plain Dealer* 15 May 1887.

<sup>37</sup> *Plain Dealer* 2 January 1862.

<sup>38</sup> *Plain Dealer* 11 April 1864.

<sup>39</sup> *Plain Dealer* 15 May 1887.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

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Northern Ohio Blanket Mills was recognized as the only genuine wool manufacturer.<sup>41</sup> Herman Beckman “acknowledged both at home and throughout the eastern states to be a man of unusual sagacity in his special line” presented a succinct discussion on the national wool manufacturing tariff context stating that,

*It is all very well to say that woolen manufacturers have prospered under a high tariff but it isn't true. How is it that the owners of about half of our eastern mills have gone through bankruptcy and that woolen mills today are rotting from disuse?...I am the only successful woolen manufacturer in Cleveland and I had to sink \$60,000 before I succeeded in getting the business on a paying basis, and only then on the very closest margins...Of course wages are higher than in Europe, but the necessities of life are a great deal higher and work is none too plentiful with all those mills lying idle...Mind you, manufactured woolens mustn't be admitted free, for we are not prepared to compete with European labor, but a tariff of 35 per cent on woolens is enough to protect us.*<sup>42</sup>

### **Fire, Rebuild & Reorganization, 1889-1891**

*At 3:30 a.m. an alarm of fire was rung in from box 172 and in a short time the heavens off toward the South Side were brilliantly lit up by the flames from the burning buildings of the Northern Ohio blanket mill...The fire broke out in the northwest corner of the picker room and rapidly burned through the whole establishment, being filled with very inflammable[sic] material throughout. At 5:20 the mill had completely burned to the ground, and only the bare and blackened walls remained standing. The loss in the mill and machinery is estimated at \$100,000, with \$80,000 insurance. Seventy-five to eighty girls and women and sixty men are employed and had been working overtime, and most of them were leaving or had left the building. The mill of F. Mulhauser & Co., opposite, narrowly escaped with \$5,000 [sic] damage.*<sup>43</sup>

Highly flammable bales of oily wool and blankets fueled the fire which was determined to have started in the picker room, while a heavy wind blew from the west rapidly destroying the Northern Ohio Blanket Mills and also threatening the Northern Ohio Woolen Mills immediately across Pleasant Street.<sup>44</sup> It was reported that only by the superior efforts was Northern Ohio Woolen Mills saved with the firm assisting the fire department with their own hose and forty men to help fight the flames and suffering a loss of only \$5,000 to \$7,500 in comparison.<sup>45</sup> The next day Northern Ohio Blanket Mills was described as a curious site with men, women and young girls who had been thrown out of employment out in full force viewing the remains of the mill and commenting on the probable origin of the fire. Timbers were still blazing and smoke rising. The machinery of the mill was described as a “heterogeneous mass, warped in every conceivable shape.” In striking contrast to the smoldering timbers, parts of the walls left

<sup>41</sup> *Plain Dealer* 5 October 1888.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>43</sup> *Plain Dealer* 7 February 1889.

<sup>44</sup> *Plain Dealer* 8 February 1889.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*

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standing were covered in ice where the water from the hose had frozen and several trees outside were completely encased in ice an inch thick.<sup>46</sup>

At the time of the fire, the Blanket Mills had been rushed with business stating that they had orders for blankets would have kept the mill running at full speed for the next nine months. The company immediately announced plans to rebuild by the end of winter.<sup>47</sup> Just over a week after the fire, an insurance settlement of \$72,000 was paid out and workmen commenced tearing down remnants of the old mill and preparing the ground for a new building.<sup>48</sup> Additional land was purchased immediately adjacent to the north by acquiring Lot 7 of the A. Rice Allotment where a neighboring dwelling house was also lost in the fire, in order to double the size of the mill from two sets of machinery to four.<sup>49</sup> The new mill was put under roof in 27 days as a new three story brick 68' x 160' structure with machinery including 4 sets of cards, 40 broad looms, and 8 mules, with reports of heavy demand for material manufacture.<sup>50</sup> The wash house, warehouse, picker room, dye room and boiler room were kept separate from the main mill building in a two story building to the south, most likely as a result of the origins of the fire in the picker room of the old mill.<sup>51</sup>

In 1891, Beckman, Senior & Co continued their expansion with an addition extending from the west of the main mill building, acquiring lots 3, 4 & 8 in the Potzenhart & Stephan Subdivision along Paris Ave.<sup>52</sup> A three story brick building addition measuring 9' x 110' x 44' for a cost of \$10,000 was constructed in the same year by The Brooks Building Company, increasing capacity of the mill.<sup>53</sup> H.M. Brown Co. on Ontario St. in Cleveland advertised for retail sale Northern Ohio Blanket Mills as "the best goods for the money to be had in this country"<sup>54</sup>

As if the Beckman, Senior & Co. had not faced enough challenges, they were confronted with the severe mental illness of one of their partners in 1891. Luke Senior suffered what might be diagnosed today as mania. The *Plain Dealer* widely reported his indiscriminate spending of company money and endangerment of the business by his purchasing of material and machinery without authority way in excess of the firm's needs, and withdrawing large sums of the money for extravagant purchases. Beckman, Senior & Co was forced to file a petition "in the best feeling toward Mr. Senior" to appoint a receiver to take charge of the mills, which was granted by the court.<sup>55</sup> Luke was declared "insane" and committed to an "insane asylum" in 1891.<sup>56</sup> With daughter Annie Senior as guardian for her father Luke, Herman Beckman bought Senior's

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> *Plain Dealer* 17 February 1889.

<sup>49</sup> *Plain Dealer* 7 February 1889, 17 February 1889; Cuyahoga County Deed John Jeroshak to Beckman Sr. & Co. 23 February 1889.

<sup>50</sup> *Plain Dealer* 4 May 1889; City of Cleveland Building Permit No. 1312, 20 February 1889.

<sup>51</sup> *Plain Dealer* 13 February 1889; Cuyahoga Tax Duplicate 1889-90;

<sup>52</sup> Cuyahoga County Deed Casimir Reichlin to Beckman Senior & Co. 3 October 1891; Cuyahoga County Tax Duplicate 1892; City of Cleveland Building Permit No. 4452, 28 September 1891.

<sup>53</sup> City of Cleveland Building Permit No. 4452, 28 September 1891; Cuyahoga County Tax Duplicate 1892.

<sup>54</sup> *Plain Dealer* 11 January 1891.

<sup>55</sup> *Plain Dealer* 20 October 1891.

<sup>56</sup> *Plain Dealer* 1 September 1892.



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interest in the mills out for \$52,000 in March 1882 and the company was reorganized as Beckman & Co.<sup>57</sup>

### **The Boom and Bust Years, 1892-1895**

Cleveland in 1892 was a busy textile, woolen and garment related manufacturing city with factories and a large immigrant population supporting the new economy. The jobbing, dry goods, millinery and notions trades were reported as extensive "with stocks equal to those of similar firms in any leading city."<sup>58</sup> Cleveland had made great strides in the production industry over the preceding decade. The Cleveland based house of Root & McBride Bros. (NR #800002978) located in the Cleveland Warehouse District (NR #07000070), was the largest dry goods establishment in the United States outside of New York and Chicago. Millinery and straw goods production was led by the Cleveland house of Foote, Reed & Co., as one of the largest in the United States. Hexter & Daniels was another enterprising and progressive house, doing business as dealers in imported and American woolens in Cleveland with a comprehensive stock from European and American looms, imported for dealers and merchant tailors in northern Ohio, western Pennsylvania and Michigan. Other business included: furriers; the manufacture and jobbing of hats; knit good manufacturers; trimmings and furnishings manufacturers; rag business; extensive manufacture of ready-made clothing with 22 large manufacturing and wholesale houses; two large hosiery manufactories of ladies' cloaks and wearing apparel; and, various tailoring companies.<sup>59</sup>

Three preeminent woolen manufacturers were located in the City of Cleveland at this time stimulating the active textile and woolen economy:

► **The Cleveland Woolen Mills** was established in 1887 by Englishmen G.E. Collings, Charles Taylor and C.I. Lockwood doing business as Collings, Taylor & Co. for the manufacture of wool shoddies, fine Botany yarns and Ring stocks with production at the rate of more than 1,500,000 pounds per year. The mills employed 175 hands with manufactured stock going into all principle markets of the United States.<sup>60</sup> The mills were located on Eliza Street between Cedar and Central Avenues covering nearly three acres with nearby railroad access and no longer remain.

► **F. Mulhauser & Co. (Northern Ohio Woolen Mills)**

This firm conducted the largest enterprise in the country as manufacturers of and dealers in wool shoddies and wool stock. The manufacturing premises on Pleasant St. (across from Northern Ohio Blanket Mills) covered one acre and included a one story building, 150' x 250', a two story building, 125' x 250' three story premises, 175' x 200', with yards and lesser buildings. A 400-horse power engine, three washing machines, twenty dye tubs, four dusting machines, three dyeing machines, twenty six carding machines and ten picking

<sup>57</sup> *Plain Dealer* 17 March 1892, 14 July 1892.

<sup>58</sup> *Plain Dealer* 14 July 1892.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>60</sup> *Plain Dealer* 14 July 1892.

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machines were utilized. The products were comprised of wool shoddies of every grade, averaging 20,000 pounds daily, or about 6,000,000 lbs. annually with 700 employed with branches in Boston, Paris, Strasburg and London.<sup>61</sup> The mill buildings largely remain standing today.

### ► Northern Ohio Blanket Mills

The mills covered a street block from No. 29 to No. 33 Pleasant St., manufacturing bed blankets, horse blankets and carriage robes with employment of 250 hands in the production of wool goods “which are unsurpassed for quality, utility and general excellence by those of any other establishment.” These goods were sold throughout the United States and Canada, Mexico, South America and Alaska with a corps of traveling salesmen. Herman Beckman and his son Herman Beckman Jr. “are highly esteemed in business circles for their activity and sterling integrity and their enterprise is one that conduces in the highest degree to the credit of Cleveland.”<sup>62</sup>

All of this momentum in 1892 was met by collapse of the economy and the Panic of 1893 when nationally 15,000 companies failed, as did over 600 banks.<sup>63</sup> Relief efforts abounded and Herman Beckman participated locally as a member of the executive committee of the Second Relief District in Cleveland.<sup>64</sup> Northern Ohio Blanket Mills appears to have shut down for a period in 1893, but resumed operations. They announced that the mill would reopen in January 1894 employing 250 workmen, with Beckman stating that they have decided to begin work in the New Year despite the hardships of tariff legislation and the shortage of American sheep and wool supply, requiring them to import from Australia.<sup>65</sup>

In 1894, new legislation was passed placing a tariff on revenue, as opposed to a protectionist tariff which had blocked American manufacturers from obtaining affordable wool from European markets.<sup>66</sup> Beckman stated that this is the “best tariff bill that has passed since 1862” and that during the past four years, 165 woolen mills had gone to bankruptcy which he attributed to the inability to get wool to compete with foreign manufacturers.<sup>67</sup>

By 1895, Northern Ohio Blanket Mills was recognized as the largest wool horse blanket and carriage robe manufacturers in the United States and one of the largest in the world.<sup>68</sup>

### Strikes and Industrialization

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

<sup>63</sup> Miller, 91; Estrin, Jake C., *American History Made Simple*. New York: Doubleday, 1991,168.

<sup>64</sup> *Plain Dealer* 15 December 1893.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

<sup>66</sup> *Plain Dealer* 26 August 1894.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

<sup>68</sup> *Plain Dealer* 10 May 1895.

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During the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, America's new industry leaders watched successive waves of unionization with trepidation, often trying to crush the momentum. Employers relied on police forces, the press and local churches to support their position, preventing strikers and organizers from obtaining sustained financial support to sustain long strikes.<sup>69</sup> Northern Ohio Blanket Mills did not escape the trend. In March 1898, dissatisfied workers called a company-wide strike at the mills. Herman Beckman Jr. took a strong position that the company was in no hurry to start the mills because "[w]hen the trouble commenced we cancelled all orders and let everything go. If we were to start now, no more than one-half of the employees would be needed. It is true that this it is the commencement of the busy season, but this year things seemed to have taken another course."<sup>70</sup> An executive committee of strikers shortly thereafter expressed their desire to return to work, but were bluntly turned down and told to look elsewhere for work. A strikers' meeting ensued and was held at Chabek's Hall at Fulton and Newark Street, described as,

*...one of the most unique labor meetings ever known in this city. More than 300 persons were present and the women predominated. It was a strange sight to see small boys whom it would be very hard to believe have reached the legal age limit for factory labor, mingling with aged women and both fighting for the common cause. Many young women are engaged in this strike also, some of whom are uncommonly pretty.<sup>71</sup>*

A Central Labor Union (C.L.U.) agent called at the Hall during the meeting in an attempt to organize and secure an affiliation, but was turned away by the strikers. Company superintendent Henry Balbian was questioned on his plans to supplant the strikers with Italians, but would only say that the company refused to take the striking workers back on any terms. The strike had already forced a shutting down of the mills, cancellation of orders and enforced idleness for the next six months.<sup>72</sup> Strikers' meetings were continued with the organizers from City District Assembly No. 47, Knights of Labor (K. of L.) addressing the group and advocating unionization, one of whom it was noted was a woman. The women weavers, numbering 90 workers, subsequently separated from the rest of the strikers and made a stand for themselves. They were in the unique position that their skills were required in order for other work to continue. The all-women group continued to meet separately with no men admitted. A committee from the weavers group was finally appointed and met with Superintendent Balbian and Herman Beckman Jr., the result of which was a return to work the following Saturday. The lock out was broken and the weavers were taken back.<sup>73</sup> However, the breach between the male workmen and the weavers continued, with the men continuing strikes and meetings and the women refusing to participate, with K. of L. present.<sup>74</sup>

The mills had reopened for the non-striking women weavers, but as they exited the mills along Pleasant St., they were met with "jeers and abusive epithets, hurled at them" by factions of

<sup>69</sup> Estrin, 186.

<sup>70</sup> *Plain Dealer* 12 March 1898.

<sup>71</sup> *Plain Dealer* 13 March 1898.

<sup>72</sup> *Plain Dealer* 13 March 1898.

<sup>73</sup> *Plain Dealer* 13 March 1898, 19 March 1898.

<sup>74</sup> *Plain Dealer* 20 March 1898.

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striking weavers and workmen, fearing bodily injury.<sup>75</sup> The police were called in to help with the situation.<sup>76</sup> Rather than the men, the striking women were called in for picket line duty from their homes along Pleasant St. requiring all hands going in for work to pass a “gauntlet of jeers and reviling shouts and feminine abuse of every known variety.”<sup>77</sup> Their efforts were reported as a success when only 24 of the “Italians” that turned up for work on the first day, returned back the next.<sup>78</sup> On March 25, the strike was off...” the weavers threw up their hands... and the men soon followed suit by making an unconditional surrender. Sixty weavers were put back to work” coming back on the same terms as their former service.<sup>79</sup>

The mill had defied and never appears to have become unionized. Northern Ohio Blanket Mills quickly moved on, and formally incorporated the company on April 4, 1898 under the name “The Beckman Co.” with incorporators listed as Herman Beckman, Herman Beckman Jr., William Liebing, E. S. Meyer and M. P. Mooney, with authorization to issue \$200,000 of capital stock.<sup>80</sup>

### Transition, Expansion & Growth

Herman Beckman Sr. fell ill in March 1898 after a visit to Italy, when his homeward bound trip was stretched out to three weeks due to a machinery failure on the ship *La Champagne*. He became seriously ill and remained hospitalized in St. Alexis hospital until his death 10 months later in January 1899 at the age of 76.<sup>81</sup> Upon his death, he was recognized as very well known among business and financial men, and as a man of the highest character. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce. He was interested in charitable work and had been a member of the executive committee at St. Alexis hospital for many years serving as chairman of the building committee. Herman Beckman, Jr. took over as president of The Beckman Co., after serving as a secretary-treasurer beside his father.<sup>82</sup>

Between 1899 and 1900, Northern Ohio Blanket Mills saw more expansion with construction of the three story brick “factory addition” to the south of the existing mill buildings measuring 125’ x 35’ x 15,’ with builder Charles Moeutk and mechanical engineer Benjamin F. Silliman signing the building permit on behalf of owner Herman Beckman.<sup>83</sup> A one story brick “Boiler House addition” measuring 20’x 50’ at a cost of \$10,000 was also added along Paris Ave. at the west end of the factory mill building to increase capacity at the mill in 1899, but no longer remains.<sup>84</sup>

Leadership of the company under Herman Beckman Jr. was short lived. By 1901 he had headed to Europe and the Republic of San Marino for a year with his native Italian wife. He then moved permanently to Villa Magnolie, San Remo, Italy after disposing of his business interests in

<sup>75</sup> *Plain Dealer* 23 March 1898.

<sup>76</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>77</sup> *Plain Dealer* 24 March 1898.

<sup>78</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>79</sup> *Plain Dealer* 25 March 1898.

<sup>80</sup> *Plain Dealer* 4 April 1898.

<sup>81</sup> *Plain Dealer* 12 March 1898.

<sup>82</sup> *Plain Dealer* 15 May 1900, 27 January 1899; Cleveland City Directory, 1899.

<sup>83</sup> City of Cleveland Building Permit No. 36277, 20 July 1900; U.S. Federal Population Census 1900.

<sup>84</sup> City of Cleveland Building Permit No. 33413, 28 June 1899; *Plain Dealer* 14 October 1899.

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Cleveland to spend his remaining years abroad.<sup>85</sup> By 1904, he was no longer listed in the Cleveland City Directory with the following officers now in place at The Beckman Company: H. Tiedemann, President; William Greif, Vice President; Frank A. Mehling, General Manager; August J. Tiedemann, Secretary & Treasurer. Under new leadership, a company office was established in 1904 on property acquired from John and Elizabeth Nelson for \$67,000 as part of Sublot 35 in the M. Althen's subdivision, and the house converted for company office use, now demolished.<sup>86</sup>

The 1902 Golden Jubilee edition of the *Wachter and Anzeiger*, the local German newspaper, advertised Northern Ohio Blanket Mills as selling Wool Square Horse Blankets direct from the mill to retailers, eliminating traditional profits to the Eastern Commission Houses and Jobbers. They promoted their product as "Easy to sell as Nails" with selling agencies in Chicago, Philadelphia, New York and Boston.<sup>87</sup> They were also selling the "Silent Hustler" as an indestructible institutional blanket of 5 lbs in weight selling for \$1.85 with 20,000 sold to state institutions 1903.<sup>88</sup> Other types of blanket customers included newspapers through the United States, British Columbia and New Brunswick who used "Beckman Drying Blankets" in their printing process.<sup>89</sup>

At the turn of the century, Cleveland Worsted Mill Co. (NR# 85001695, now demolished) located at 6114 Broadway re-entered the woolen manufacturing industry in Cleveland, as a re-organization in 1902 of the Turner Worsted Mill which had failed during the Panic of 1893.<sup>90</sup> The company grew to eventually control 11 worsted wool manufacturing plants in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Ohio.<sup>91</sup> The woolen manufacturing industry in Cleveland remained vibrant, including as well at this time The Cleveland Woolen Mills, F. Mulhauser & Co. (Northern Ohio Woolen Mills) and Northern Ohio Blanket Mills.

Northern Ohio Blanket Mills continued in a full growth mode under leadership of President William Greif.<sup>92</sup> In 1909-1910 the company announced plans to erect a substantial addition to the plant, with plans prepared by architects Cercum & Beer and the general contracting awarded to L. Dautel & Son. The addition was constructed on the southeast portion of the property on M. Althan Lot 32 and 33 at Pleasant St. with a one story building for dusting, dying, picking and storage, which no longer remains.<sup>93</sup> The company expanded further with another factory

<sup>85</sup> *Plain Dealer* 22 January 1916.

<sup>86</sup> Cuyahoga County Deed Joseph and Elizabeth Norton to Beckman Co., 12 June 1904; Sanborn 1912-13; G.A. Hopkins Map 1921-22.

<sup>87</sup> *Wachter und Anzeiger: Goldenes jubilaum 1852-1902*, Cleveland Ohio, 9 August 1902. Available at Western Reserve Historical Society, 40.

<sup>88</sup> Northern Ohio Blanket Mills Letter, Season 1904. Cleveland: The Beckman Company. Available at Ohio Historical Society.

<sup>89</sup> Northern Ohio Blanket Mills Price List 1910, Cleveland: The Beckman Company. Available at Ohio Historical Society.

<sup>90</sup> Van Tassel, Grabowski, 301.

<sup>91</sup> *Ibid*; Cleveland Worsted Mill Co. was lost to fire in 1993.

<sup>92</sup> Cleveland City Directories, 1909-1910.

<sup>93</sup> Cuyahoga County Tax Duplicate, M. Althan Lot 32, 33, 1910; Sanborn 1903, 1912-13; *Plain Dealer* 27 March 1910.

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building at the southeast corner of Fulton Rd. and Paris Ave., which remains today.<sup>94</sup> Constructed between 1910 and 1913, the four story facility measured 130' x 132', with more than 17,000 feet of floor space to be used for manufacturing and storage.<sup>95</sup> It was patterned after the main building of the International Harvester Co.'s structure in Chicago, in that its floors were completely fireproof – in the case of fire or premature tapping of the sprinkling system they were claimed to be capable of holding approximately 5 feet of water to prevent its leaking through to the stock on the floor below.<sup>96</sup> The contract was awarded to Hunkin-Conkey Construction Company with plans prepared by Osborn Engineering Company for a price of \$65,000.<sup>97</sup> The Beckman Company as of 1913 controlled the entire block between Fulton Rd., Paris Ave., Pleasant/West 33rd St. and Theurer Ct., comprising approximately 3 acres.<sup>98</sup> Advertisement for factory help was abundant as expansion continued.

During this same period of growth and in 1913, a new tariff bill was passed with Beckman Company Vice President Frank Mehling stating “[t]he new tariff bill cannot do anything but eventual good to the textile industry.”<sup>99</sup> Mehling took over as president of The Beckman Co. in 1915.<sup>100</sup>

### A Shift in Industry

As production and capacity remained strong at Northern Ohio Blanket Mills, other new industries were rising. Automobile manufacturing became the most prominent industry of the United States during the 1920s; with 10 million cars on the highway in 1920 and, 23 million by 1929.<sup>101</sup> In 1915, Northern Ohio Blanket Mills advertisements began to appear for not just horse blankets, but for automobile touring as the new mode of transportation. Ads promoted Northern Ohio Blanket Mills and their “Wool Robes and Shawls For Automobiles, Carriages, Steamer Rugs, Etc.” stating that “no one can tour right without one or more of our Robes and Shawls in the machine.”<sup>102</sup> Retail in-town agents included The Halle Brothers (NR #83001953) on Euclid Ave; M. & M. Co. at 480 Prospect Ave.; The W.H. Gabriel Carriage & Wagon Co. at 476 Broadway; Cleveland Harness Manufacturing Co. at 1562 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street; and, Mau-Sherwood Supply Co. at 1616 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.<sup>103</sup> A 1918 Northern Ohio Blanket Mills catalog advertised Heavy Single Indestructible Institution Blankets and Domestic Bed Blankets “for Institutions-Camps-Ranches-Sleeping Porches-Sanitarium Day Porches-Boats and Outdoors generally” with the trademark “Northern Ohio Woolware.”<sup>104</sup> Institutional blankets comprised large sales, with Beckman Co. listed in The Modern Hospital Year Book, 1919 as a supplier.<sup>105</sup> Also advertised

<sup>94</sup> Cuyahoga County Tax Duplicate, 1910; Sanborn 1912-13.

<sup>95</sup> *Plain Dealer* 3 April 1913; Sanborn 1912-1913; Cuyahoga County Tax Duplicate 1911.

<sup>96</sup> *Plain Dealer* 3 April 1913.

<sup>97</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>98</sup> *Plain Dealer* 3 April 1913.

<sup>99</sup> *Plain Dealer* 20 October 1913.

<sup>100</sup> Cleveland City Directory, 1915.

<sup>101</sup> Estrin, 232.

<sup>102</sup> *Plain Dealer* 28 March 1915.

<sup>103</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>104</sup> Northern Ohio Blanket Mills 1918-1919 Catalog, Cleveland: The Beckman Company. Available at the Ohio Historical Society.

<sup>105</sup> *The Modern Hospital Year Book, A Buyer's Reference Book of Supplies and Equipment for Hospitals and Allied*

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were wool robes and shawls as “always the best” stating that “we have tried them out in daily ten mile drives back and forth from home to mill, and know of whereof we speak”<sup>106</sup> Help wanted ads for girls to work in Northern Ohio Blanket Mills remained abundant in 1917-1918.<sup>107</sup> In May 1920, The Beckman Co. reported sales running at the rate of \$1,800,000, an increase of 20 percent over the previous year, and without an increase in equipment. Plans for construction of a new weave house were announced, but construction would not start until building prices stabilized. Estimated profits for 1920 were conservatively priced at \$300,000.<sup>108</sup> In 1920, The Beckman Co. made their first public offering of 7% cumulative preferred stock at a price of \$100 per share for purposes of constructing an additional weave mill to double the present capacity and to provide additional working capital.<sup>109</sup> The Beckman Co. in 1920 remained “the largest producer in the United States of Wool Robes and Shawls, Horse Blankets, Stereotypers’ Drier Blankets and Heavy Indestructible Blankets for Labor Camps, etc,” which now owned the trademark “Northern Ohio Woolware.”<sup>110</sup>

The 1921-22 Northern Ohio Woolware catalogue by Northern Ohio Blanket Mills had an expansive offering of wool and plush robes, blankets and shawls for “Automobile, Carriage, Porch, Lounge, Tent, Camp, Yacht, Steamer and Power Boat Rugs or as extra Bed Comforts” in plaids, colors and fringed in varying lengths.<sup>111</sup> The continued expansion with construction of a 110’ x 43’ addition connecting the mill building and warehouse along Pleasant Ave, now West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, with plans by architect Herman Eisele.<sup>112</sup>

Another stock offering was made in 1923 with Frank A. Mehling as President of The Beckman Co. advertising “Why not Buy Good Home Stocks?” offering again, 7% cumulative preferred stock with \$500,000 authorized and \$340,000 issued, “to get more needed working capital we are offering \$160,000, 7% cumulative preferred stock” at \$100.00 per share with the United Banking & Savings Co. of Cleveland listed as the registrar.<sup>113</sup>

### **Decline and Dissolution**

Between 1923 and 1929, fortunes had changed, President Frank Mehling passed away in 1927 and the Stock Market Crash and Depression loomed.<sup>114</sup> The Beckman Co. was liquidating. The tragic death of The Beckman Co. president Carl H. Teidemann at the age of thirty-nine was reported as he had arrived for work on the morning of December 16, 1929, and that afternoon leapt to his death off of the Clark Ave Bridge. The company had been in liquidation for the last

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*Institutions.* Chicago: The Modern Hospital Publishing Company, Inc., 1919.

<sup>106</sup> Northern Ohio Blanket Mills 1918-1919 Catalog, 16.

<sup>107</sup> *Plain Dealer* 14 June 1918.

<sup>108</sup> *Plain Dealer* 29 May 1920.

<sup>109</sup> *Plain Dealer* 18 February 1920.

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>111</sup> Northern Ohio Woolware, Northern Ohio Blanket Mills 1921-1922 Catalog, Cleveland: The Beckman Company. Available at Ohio Historical Society.

<sup>112</sup> City of Cleveland Building Permit No. 31475, 29 March 1923.

<sup>113</sup> *Plain Dealer* 1 June 1923; Cleveland City Directory, 1923.

<sup>114</sup> Ohio, Deaths 1908-1932. Available at Ancestry.com.

Northern Ohio Blanket Mills

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several months, with little coverage in the local newspaper.<sup>115</sup> The Beckman Co. was formally dissolved with the Secretary of State of the State of Ohio in January 1932.<sup>116</sup>

Northern Ohio Woolen Mills, later known as the National Woolen Company, was sold at public auction in 1946.<sup>117</sup> Cleveland Worsted Mills operated until 1956. Of those that survived the Depression years, the era of woolen manufacturing came to an end largely succumbing to competition from southern textile manufacturers and the introduction of synthetic fiber.<sup>118</sup>

The Beckman Co.'s Northern Ohio Blanket Mills property was sold to Industrial Realty Shares Inc. in 1932.<sup>119</sup> At that time of the sale, the facility included an entire city block of frontage on Fulton Rd. S.W., the dimensions being 284'; 519' on Theurer Ave. S.W.; 321' on W. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and 519' on its north line, a portion of which was along Paris Ave, S.W., totaling 3.53 acres.<sup>120</sup> It included six large brick buildings of three and four-stories, housing 210,000 sq. ft. of space, seven one and two-story buildings with 30,000 sq. ft. with natural lighting in most of the space.<sup>121</sup> The plant was equipped with 1,000 horse power and automatic stokers. All buildings were equipped with sprinkler systems. Several years prior to sale, the property had been appraised for \$584,000.<sup>122</sup>

New owner, Realty Shares divided the buildings into 37 units averaging 6,000 sq ft, each served with an elevator and having separate rest rooms, entrances and exits. Tenants occupying the space included: Central Freight Ways; Rebel & Franks lamp and shade makers; Becker Electric Co. and Wardwell Manufacturing Company producing saw making machinery.<sup>123</sup> [Industrial] Realty Shares tenants also included a rubber company, a large machine shop, a home laundry, an industrial laundry, an auto body shop, a mushroom grower, and an angora yarn product firm, with many residents of the immediate neighborhood finding employment at these companies during the Great Depression years.<sup>124</sup> Cleveland City Directories and the 1939 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map show that the buildings were vacant for part of the 1940s,<sup>125</sup> occupied by furniture manufacturer Namor Products, Inc. in the 1950s,<sup>126</sup> used as an American Greetings Inc. warehouse in the 1960s<sup>127</sup>, by United States Consolidated Plumbing in the 1970s,<sup>128</sup> and long time tenant Custom Metals Fabricators used the building from the 1980s until it was vacated in 2009.<sup>129</sup>

<sup>115</sup> *Plain Dealer* 17 December 1929.

<sup>116</sup> *Plain Dealer* 6 June 1932.

<sup>117</sup> *Plain Dealer* 18 November 1946.

<sup>118</sup> Van Tassel, Grabowski, 301.

<sup>119</sup> Cuyahoga County Deed The Beckman Company to Industrial Realty Shares Inc., 15 December 1932.

<sup>120</sup> *Plain Dealer* 18 February 1932.

<sup>121</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>122</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>123</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>124</sup> *Plain Dealer* 20 February 1946.

<sup>125</sup> Cleveland City Directory, 1941; Sanborn, 1939.

<sup>126</sup> Cleveland City Directory, 1953-59.

<sup>127</sup> Cleveland City Directory, 1961-66.

<sup>128</sup> Cleveland City Directory, 1977.

<sup>129</sup> Prendergast, Ken. "Northern Ohio Blanket Mills Eyed for Redevelopment," *Sun News* 3 July 2009.



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Industrial Realty Shares continued to own the building until 1990, selling to Managed Facilities Inc. who then sold to Lin Omni Clark World Inc. in 1998, who sold to Green Apple USA, LLC in 2008.<sup>130</sup> The current owner of 3160 West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street is 3160 W. 33<sup>rd</sup> St. LLC, acquiring the property in 2011.<sup>131</sup> The 3167 Fulton Rd. portion of the property which includes the 1910-1913 manufacturing building remains in the ownership of Lin Omni Clark Metro, LLC.

### Conclusion

Northern Ohio Blanket Mills represents the national growth of the manufacturing industry fueled by skilled and entrepreneurially minded immigrants, who brought the city of Cleveland into the Industrial Age. Englishmen John Senior and Luke Senior, and German Herman Beckman founded and grew the company to become the largest woolen horse blanket and carriage robe manufacturing factory in the United States and one of the largest in the world by 1895, using immigrant labor in their mill.<sup>132</sup> The company was complimentary to, but distinct from the bustling Cleveland woolen garment industry, which included: L.N. Gross Co. 1900; Joseph and Feiss Factory 1900-1934 (NR#10000873); H. Black & Company 1906-1922 (NR#20020124); Federal Knitting Mills 1910-1937 (NR#20010116); and Richman Brothers Company, 1910 (NR#20120919).

Northern Ohio Blanket Mills had grown and adjusted to the changing transportation modes from horse to automobile by expanding its product line which began as primarily horse blankets and carriage blankets. In the 1920s, it was recognized as the largest producer in the United States of wool carriage robes and shawls, horse blankets, stereotypers' drier blankets and heavy indestructible blankets for institutional use; and owner of the trademark "Northern Ohio Woolware."<sup>133</sup> Northern Ohio Blanket Mills' contributing historic resources represent a success as the founding, growth and operation of the largest woolen manufactory of its kind in the United States and one of the largest in the world in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the mid to late 1920s.

<sup>130</sup> Cuyahoga County Auditor's Office. Property and Tax Records.

<sup>131</sup> Ibid.

<sup>132</sup> *Plain Dealer* 10 May 1895.

<sup>133</sup> *Plain Dealer* 18 February 1920.

Northern Ohio Blanket Mills  
Name of Property

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County and State

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### Bibliography

#### Primary

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2. City of Cleveland Building Permits. Available at City of Cleveland Building Department, Cleveland Landmarks Commission, Cleveland City Hall.
3. Cleveland City Directories 1861-1977. Cleveland Public Library.
4. Cleveland Necrology File. Cleveland Public Library.
5. Cuyahoga County Auditor's Office. Property and Tax Records.
6. Cuyahoga County Land Records, Cuyahoga County Recorder's Office, Deeds 1878-2012.
7. Cuyahoga County Tax Duplicate 1878-1914. Cuyahoga County Archives.
8. G. M. Hopkins Maps, City of Cleveland 1898, 1912, 1920-22.
9. New York, Passenger and Immigration Lists, 1820-1857. Available at Ancestry.com.
10. Northern Ohio Blanket Mills, Magazine Advertisement, 1915.
11. Northern Ohio Blanket Mills Letter, Season 1904. Cleveland: The Beckman Company. Available at Ohio Historical Society.
12. Northern Ohio Blanket Mills 1918-1919 Catalog, Cleveland: The Beckman Company. Available at the Ohio Historical Society.
13. Northern Ohio Blanket Mills Price List 1910, Cleveland: The Beckman Company. Available at Ohio Historical Society.
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15. Northern Ohio Woolware, Northern Ohio Blanket Mills 1921-1922 Catalog, Cleveland: The Beckman Company. Available at Ohio Historical Society.
16. Ohio, County Naturalization Records, 1800-1977. Available at Ancestry.com.

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17. Ohio, Deaths 1908-1932. Available at Ancestry.com.
18. *Plain Dealer* Historical Archives 1882-1946. Cleveland Public Library.
19. Prendergast, Ken. "Northern Ohio Blanket Mills Eyed for Redevelopment," *Sun News* 3 July 2009.
20. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1886-87, 1896, 1903, 1912-13, 1939, 1951. Cleveland Public Library.
21. *The Modern Hospital Year Book, A Buyer's Reference Book of Supplies and Equipment for Hospitals and Allied Institutions*. Chicago: The Modern Hospital Publishing Company, Inc., 1919.
22. U.S. Bureau of Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970*, Washington, D.C., 1975.
23. U.S. Federal Non Population Census, Products of Industry 1880; Beckman & Co. Available at Western Reserve Historical Society
24. U.S. Federal Population Census 1850-1940.
25. *Wachter und Anzeiger: Goldenes jubilaum 1852-1902*, Cleveland Ohio, 9 August 1902. Available at Western Reserve Historical Society.

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1. Andrica, Theodore. "100 Years of Nationalities in Cleveland," *Cleveland Press*. Available at [www.clevelandmemory.com](http://www.clevelandmemory.com).
2. Cleveland and It's Neighborhoods . Available at <https://sites.google.com/site/clevelandanditsneighborhoods/home/ethnic-groups-in-cleveland/germans>.
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4. Cleveland Worsted Mills. National Register of Historic Places, NRN No. 85001695.
5. Estrin, Jake C., *American History Made Simple*. New York: Doubleday, 1991.
6. Miller, Carol Poh; Wheeler, Robert A. *Cleveland A Concise History 1796 – 1996*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2cd ed., 1997.

Northern Ohio Blanket Mills  
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7. Root & McBride Bros. Building. National Register of Historic Places, NRN No. 800002978.
8. U.S. History "The Rise of American Industry – 25f.Irish and German Immigration." Available at ushistory.org.
9. Van Tassel, David R. and Grabowski, John J. eds. *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: Cleveland Public Library

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

Northern Ohio Blanket Mills  
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### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** 3.38 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

#### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17 | Easting: 441000 | Northing: 4590727 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is situated in the City of Cleveland, County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio. The boundary of the Northern Ohio Blanket Mills follows the boundary of Cuyahoga County Parcel # 00732002, and #00732001, which encompasses the entire city block bordered by Fulton Road, Paris Avenue, West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, and St. Rocco Court.

Northern Ohio Blanket Mills  
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### Boundary Justification

The nominated boundary includes the property historically associated with the Northern Ohio Blanket Mills.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Wendy Naylor and Diana Wellman  
organization: Naylor Wellman, LLC  
street & number: 325 Inglewood Drive  
city or town: Cleveland Hts. state: OH zip code: 44121  
e-mail: naylor@naylorwellman.com; wellman@naylorwellman.com  
telephone: 216-482-1179  
date: November 15, 2013

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

#### Photo Log

**Name of Property:** Northern Ohio Blanket Mills

**City or Vicinity:** Cleveland

**County:** Cuyahoga      **State:** OH

**Photographer:** Diana Wellman

Northern Ohio Blanket Mills  
Name of Property

Cuyahoga, OH  
County and State

**Date Photographed:** October 2013

1 of 38.

1. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0001): Southeast Corner of complex, 1889-1900 Manufacturing Building, camera direction NW.
2. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0002): Southeast Corner of 1889 Storage Building, camera direction NW.
3. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0003): Façade 1889 Storage Building, camera direction NW.
4. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0004): Dock Alley between 1889 Storage and 1899 Manufacturing Building, camera direction W.
5. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0005): Façade 1889 Manufacturing Building, camera direction NW.
6. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0006): North Elevation 1889 Manufacturing Building, camera direction SW.
7. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0007): North Elevation 1891 Manufacturing Addition, camera direction SW.
8. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0008): North and West Elevations 1891 Manufacturing Addition, camera direction SE.
9. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0009): West Elevations 1891 & 1899-1900 Manufacturing Additions, camera direction SE.
10. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0010): West Elevation 1899-1900 Manufacturing Additions, camera direction NE.
11. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0011): Facade 1899-1900 Manufacturing Addition, camera direction NW.
12. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0012): East Elevation 1899-1900 Manufacturing Addition, camera direction NW.
13. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0013): East Elevation 1899-1900 Manufacturing Addition, camera direction NW.

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14. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0014): Post 1939 additions to Manufacturing Additions, camera direction N.
15. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0015): South Elevations 1899 Storage Building, camera direction NE.
16. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0016): South Elevation 1899 Storage Building, camera direction NW.
17. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0017): Southwest Corner of complex, 1889-1900 & 1910-13 Manufacturing Buildings, camera direction NE.
18. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0018): South & West Elevations 1910-13 Manufacturing Building, camera direction NW.
19. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0019): Corner of complex, 1889-1900 & 1910-13 Manufacturing Buildings, camera direction NE.
20. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0020): South & East Elevations 1910-13 Manufacturing Building, camera direction NE.
21. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0021): North & West Elevations 1910-13 Manufacturing Building, camera direction SE.
22. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0022): West Elevation 1910-13 & 1889-1900 Manufacturing Buildings, camera direction E.
23. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0023): North & East Elevations 1910-13 Manufacturing Building, camera direction SW.
24. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0024): Doghouse Skylights on 1889 Manufacturing Roof, camera direction E.
25. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0025): Interior, 1889 Manufacturing Building, First Floor, camera direction E.
26. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0026): Interior, 1889 Manufacturing Building, First Floor, camera direction SE.
27. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0027): Interior, 1899-1900 Manufacturing Addition, Second Floor, camera direction S.
28. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0028): Interior, Lambs Tongue posts, 1899-1900 Manufacturing Addition, Second Floor, camera direction S.



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29. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0029): Interior, 1889 Manufacturing Building, Third Floor, camera direction E.

30. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0030): Interior, 1891 Manufacturing Addition, Third Floor, camera direction SW.

31. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0031): Interior, 1891 Manufacturing Addition, Third Floor, camera direction N.

32. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0032): Interior, 1891 Manufacturing Addition, Third Floor, camera direction N.

33. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0033): Interior, 1899-1900 Manufacturing Addition, Third Floor, camera direction S.

34. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0034): Interior, 1899-1900 Manufacturing Addition, Third Floor, Inverted Queen Truss with paired tie rods and turn buckles, camera direction S.

35. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0035): Interior, 1899-1900 Manufacturing Addition, Third Floor, Fire Doors, camera direction N.

36. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0036): Interior, 1910-13 Manufacturing Building, First Floor, camera direction SE.

37. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0037): Interior, 1910-13 Manufacturing Building, First Floor, atrium, camera direction N.

38. (OH\_Cuyahoga\_NorthernOhioBlanketMills\_0038): Interior, 1910-13 Manufacturing Building, First Floor, camera direction NW.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

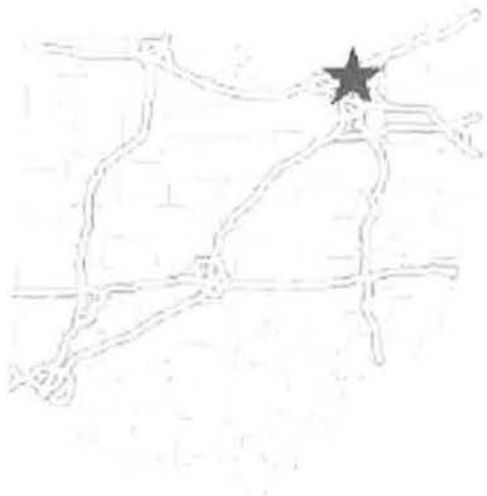
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Northern Ohio Blanket Mills  
Cuyahoga County, Ohio

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

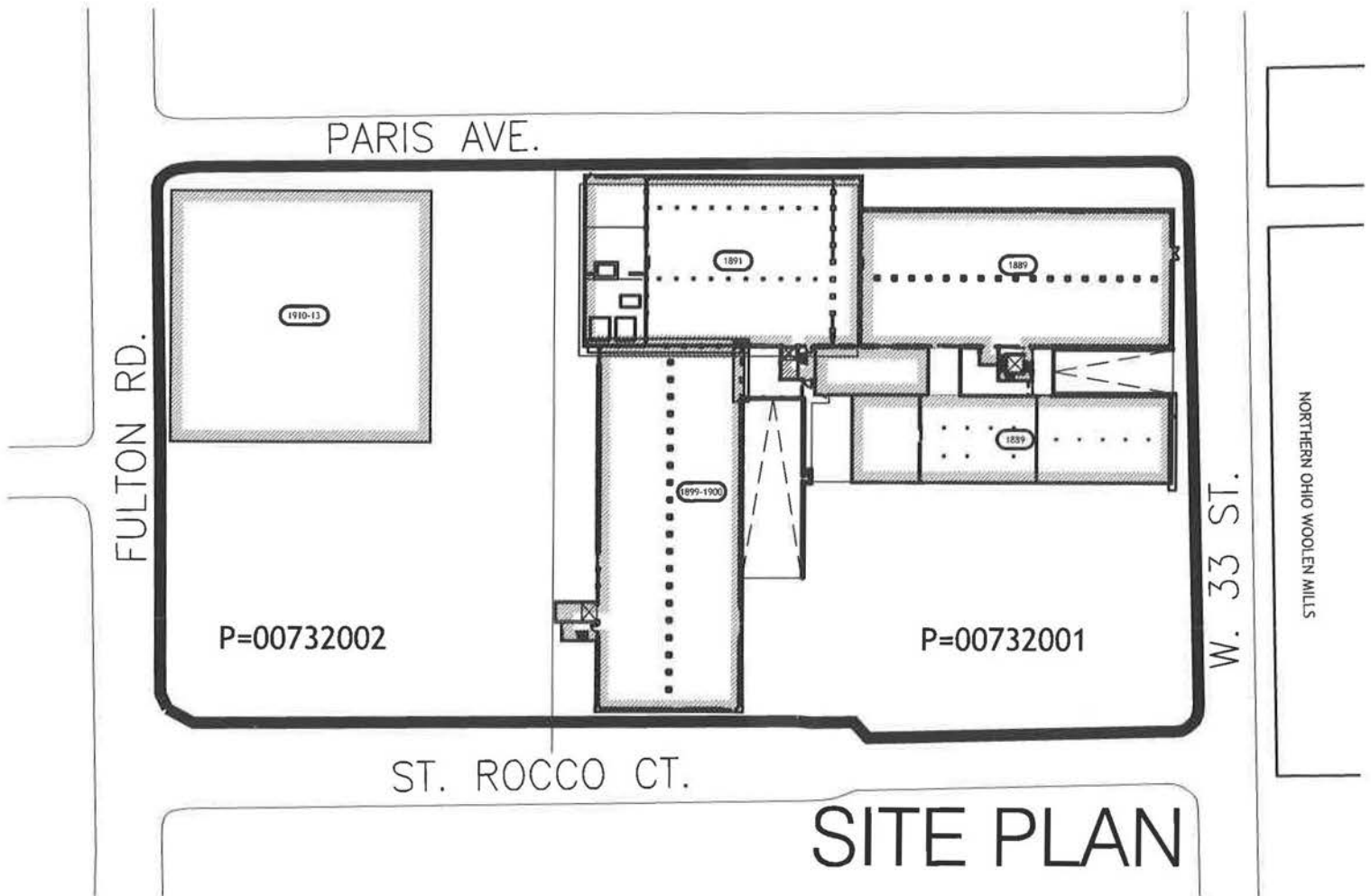
Additional Documentation - Location and Boundary Map



**LEGEND**

- BOUNDARY
- P = xxxxxxxx PARCEL NUMBER
- 19xx DATE OF CONSTRUCT.

Not to Scale



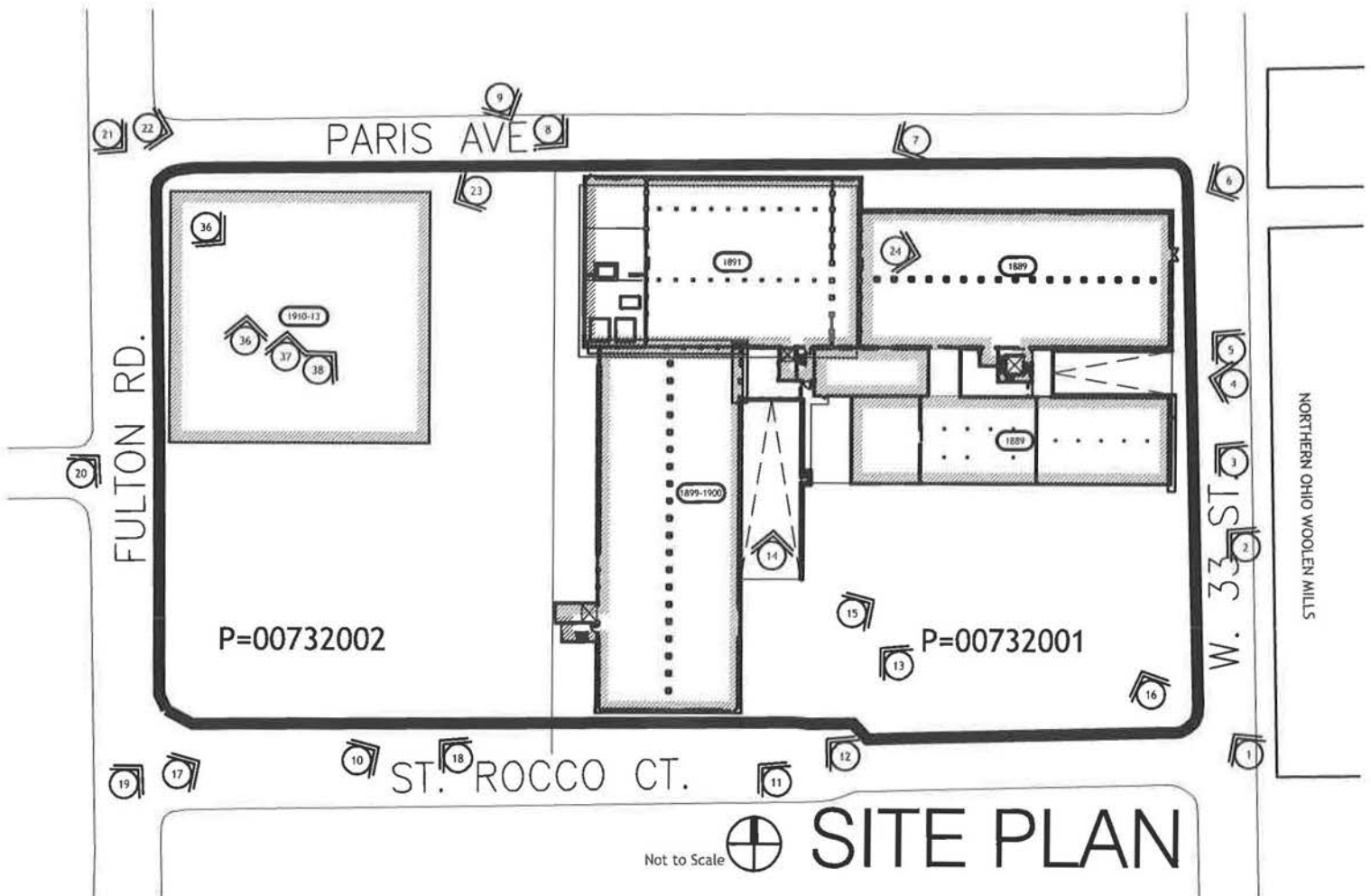
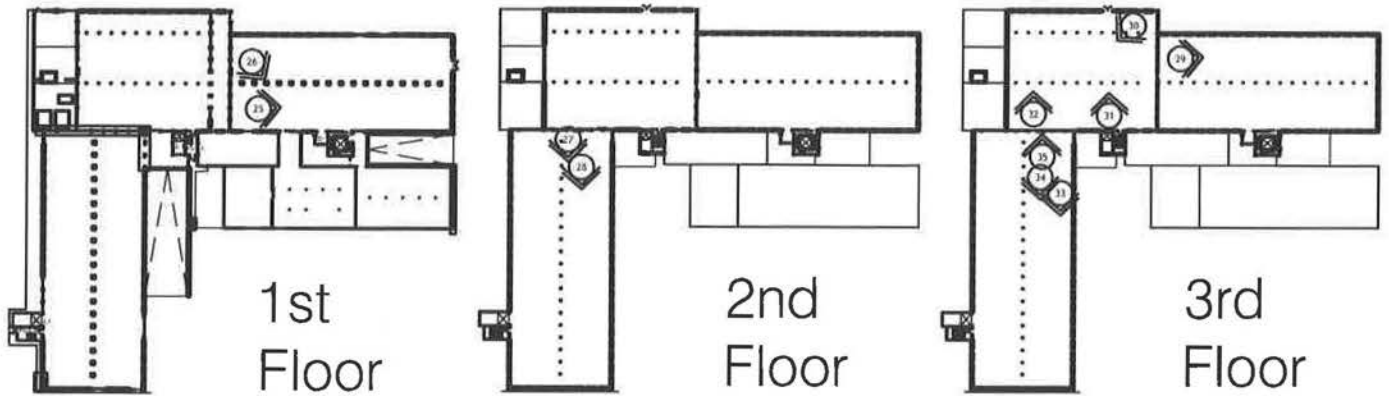
SITE PLAN

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Northern Ohio Blanket Mills  
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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Additional Documentation - Photo-Key



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**Northern Ohio Blanket Mills**  
 Cuyahoga County, Ohio

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Additional Documentation - HISTORIC FACTORY COMPLEX CA.1922**

**EXISTING RESOURCES**

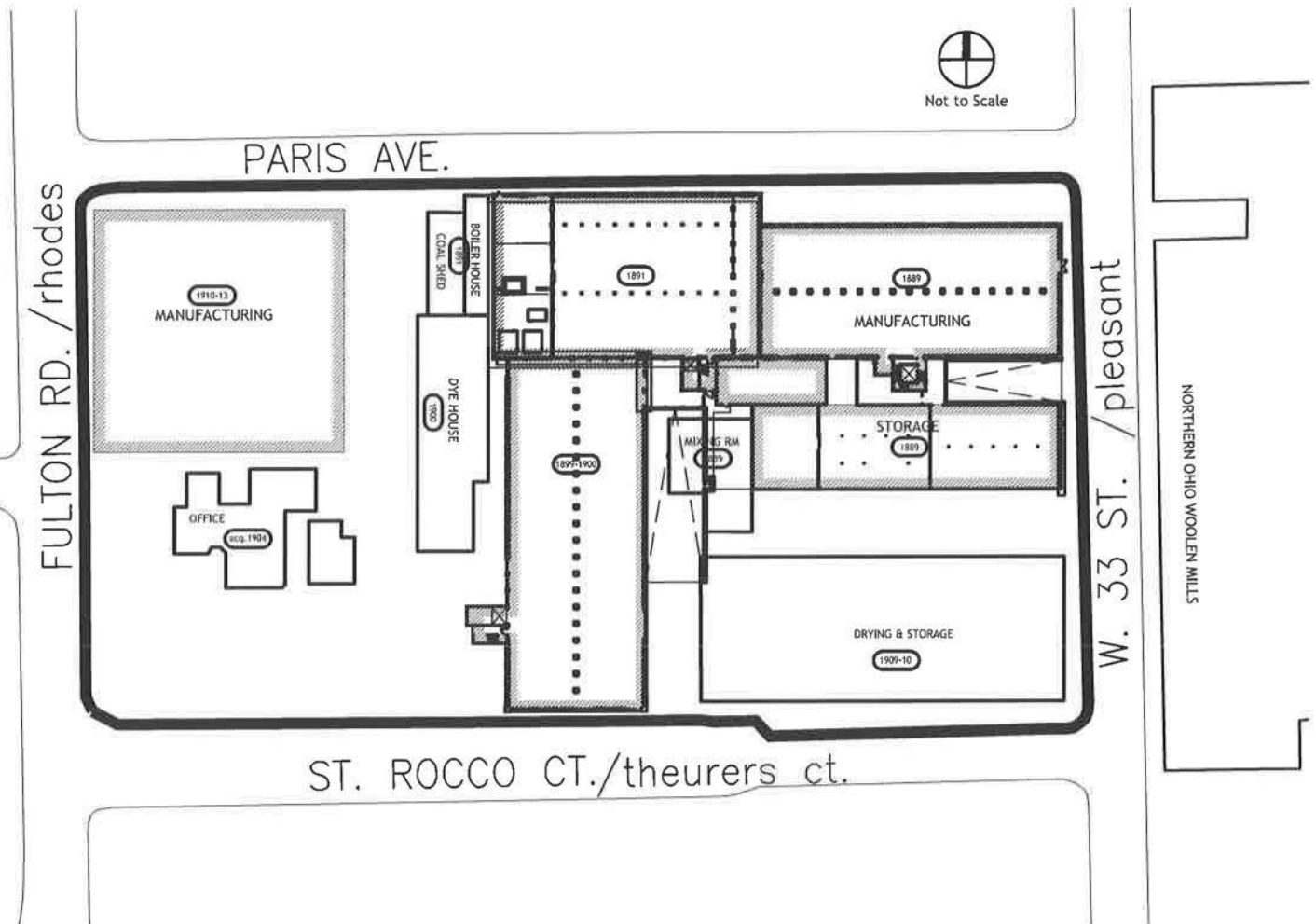
- 1889 MANUFACTURING BUILDING
- 1891 MANUFACTURING ADDITION  
 Builder: The Brooks Building Company
- 1889-1900 MANUFACTURING ADDITION  
 Builder: Charles Moeutk  
 Mechanical Engineer: Benjamin F. Silliman
  
- 1889 STORAGE
  
- 1910-13 MANUFACTURING ADDITION  
 Builder: Hunkin-Conkey Construction Company  
 Engineer: Osborn Engineering Company

**DEMOLISHED RESOURCES**

- 1889 MIXING ROOM
- 1891 BOILER HOUSE & COAL SHED
- 1900 DYE HOUSE
- 1904 OFFICE
  
- 1909-10 DRYING & STORAGE  
 Builder: L. Dautel & Son  
 Architect: Cercum & Beer

CAPS INDICATE CURRENT STREET NAME, lower case indicates historic street names

BOUNDARY



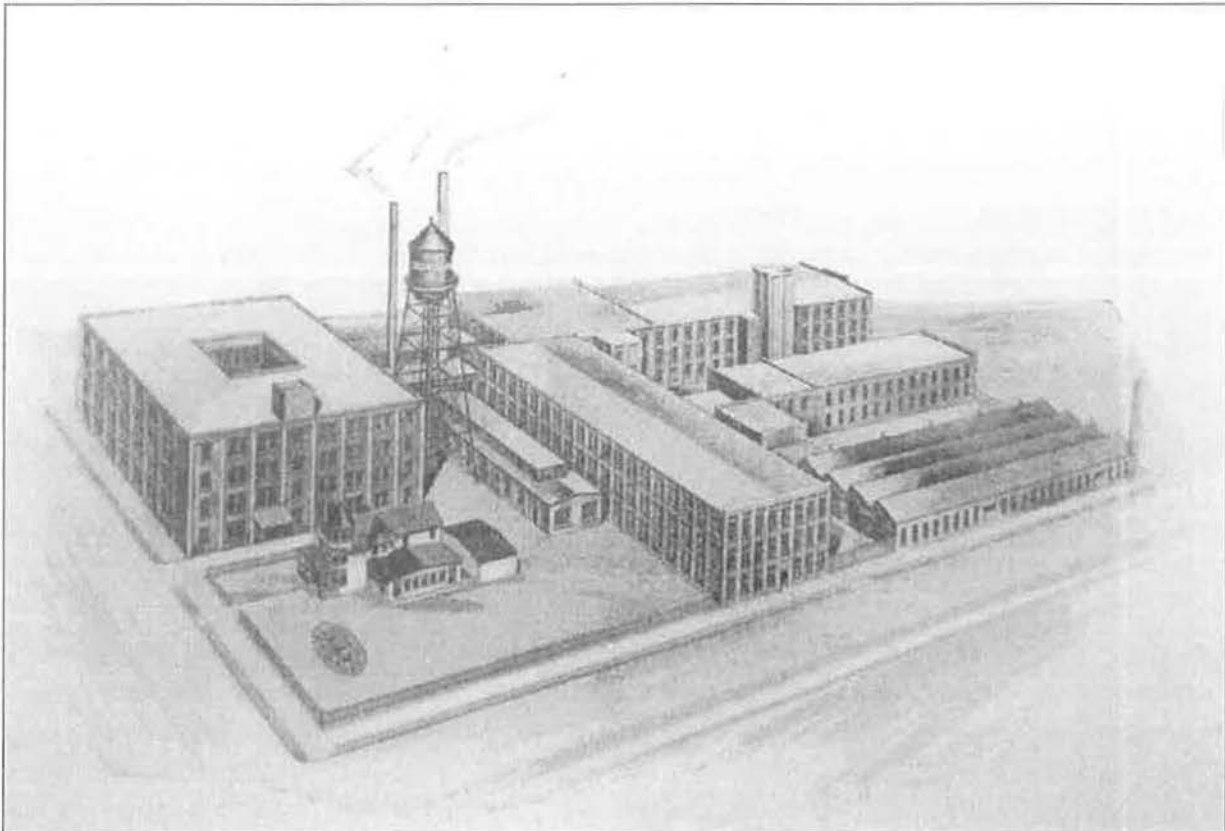
**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**Northern Ohio Blanket Mills**

Cuyahoga County, Ohio

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Additional Documentation\_Historic Images & Advertisements



Source: Northern Ohio Woolware, Northern Ohio Blanket Mills 1921-1922 Catalog, Cleveland: The Beckman Company. Available at Ohio Historical Society.

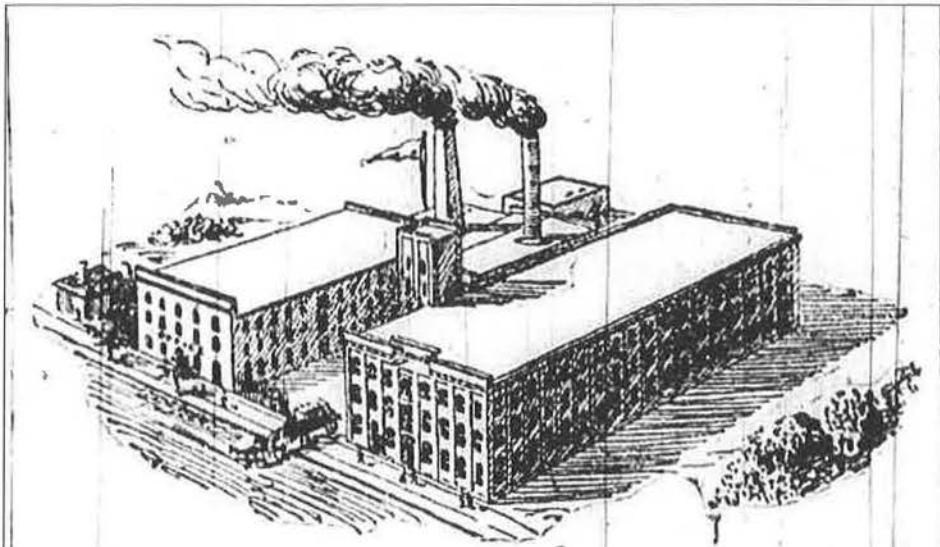
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**Northern Ohio Blanket Mills**

Cuyahoga County, Ohio

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Additional Documentation Historic Images & Advertisements



The above sketch represents the extensive plant of the **NORTHERN OHIO BLANKET MILLS**, owned and operated by **BECKMAN & CO.**, which is one of the largest mills in the world making Wool Horse Blankets and Carriage Robes.

This business was established some fifteen years ago in a small way, and now ranks among the first of its kind, the production being distributed all over this as well as other countries. Mr. Beckman, Sr., is an old resident of this city, and still an active business man, and with his son, H. Beckman, Jr., who has charge of the management of this establishment, constitute the members of the firm.

Source: *Plain Dealer*, 10 May 1895.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service


Northern Ohio Blanket Mills

Cuyahoga County, Ohio

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Additional Documentation\_ Historic Images & Advertisements

Our Way Others' Way




RETAIL DEALER  
MILL 1 PROFIT  
PAYS ONLY ONE PROFIT

**SHORT - CUT**

\*\*\*\*\*


**MILL TO RETAIL**



RETAIL DEALER  
JOBBER'S  
COMMISSION HOUSES  
MILL 1 PROFIT  
2ND PROFIT  
3RD PROFIT  
PAYS 3 PROFITS

**Wool Square Horse Blankets** =====

FROM MILL DIRECT TO RETAILER.



THE BECKMAN CO.

NORTHERN OHIO  
BLANKET MILLS

**Wool Carriage Robes** =====

Profitable Line  
"Easy to sell as Nails."

\*\*\*\*\*

**NORTHERN OHIO BLANKET MILLS**

**THE BECKMAN CO.**  
**CLEVELAND, OHIO**

SELLING AGENCIES

|  |   |
|--|---|
| CHAS. G. JOHNSTON, 281 Madison, Chicago.   | E. L. BOWLES, 72 Warren, New York.        |
| F. M. LETTS, 44 North Sixth, Philadelphia. | MCINTIRE & CHANDLER, 97 Portland, Boston. |

Source: *Wachter und Anzeiger: Goldenes jubilaum 1852-1902*, Cleveland Ohio, 9 August 1902 Available at Western Reserve Historical Society.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Northern Ohio Blanket Mills


Cuyahoga County, Ohio

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Additional Documentation\_ Historic Images & Advertisements

Source: *Magazine Ads*, 1915-1920, unknown origin.

"How to Use the Blue Book" Insert



**WOOL ROBES and SHAWLS  
for AUTOMOBILES**  
Variety of Weights, Sizes, Grades and Prices.  
Extra Large and Heavy.  
Thick, Warm, Soft, Fabrics.

**THE BECKMAN CO.,**  
Northern Ohio Blanket Mills  
1167 Fulton Road,  
Cleveland, O.

*If desired  
send  
stamp  
and  
check for  
Color Plate  
Catalog*



Page 12



**Northern  
Ohio  
Woolware**

## Wool Shawls and Robes

There's a "class" about Northern Ohio Woolware that appeals to most everyone who motors. The colorings are pleasing to the eye. The weaves are distinctive. The size and weight give an impression of comfort and luxury.

Merchants selling Northern Ohio Woolware Robes and Shawls are offering the best obtainable. The prices are right and the profits for the merchant are attractive.

Send for our Color-plate Catalogue of Robes and Shawls. It will give you some living color ideas of the superiority of our line.

**Northern Ohio**

**DIRECT  
TO  
YOU**



**Northern Ohio Woolware**  
"ALWAYS THE BEST"

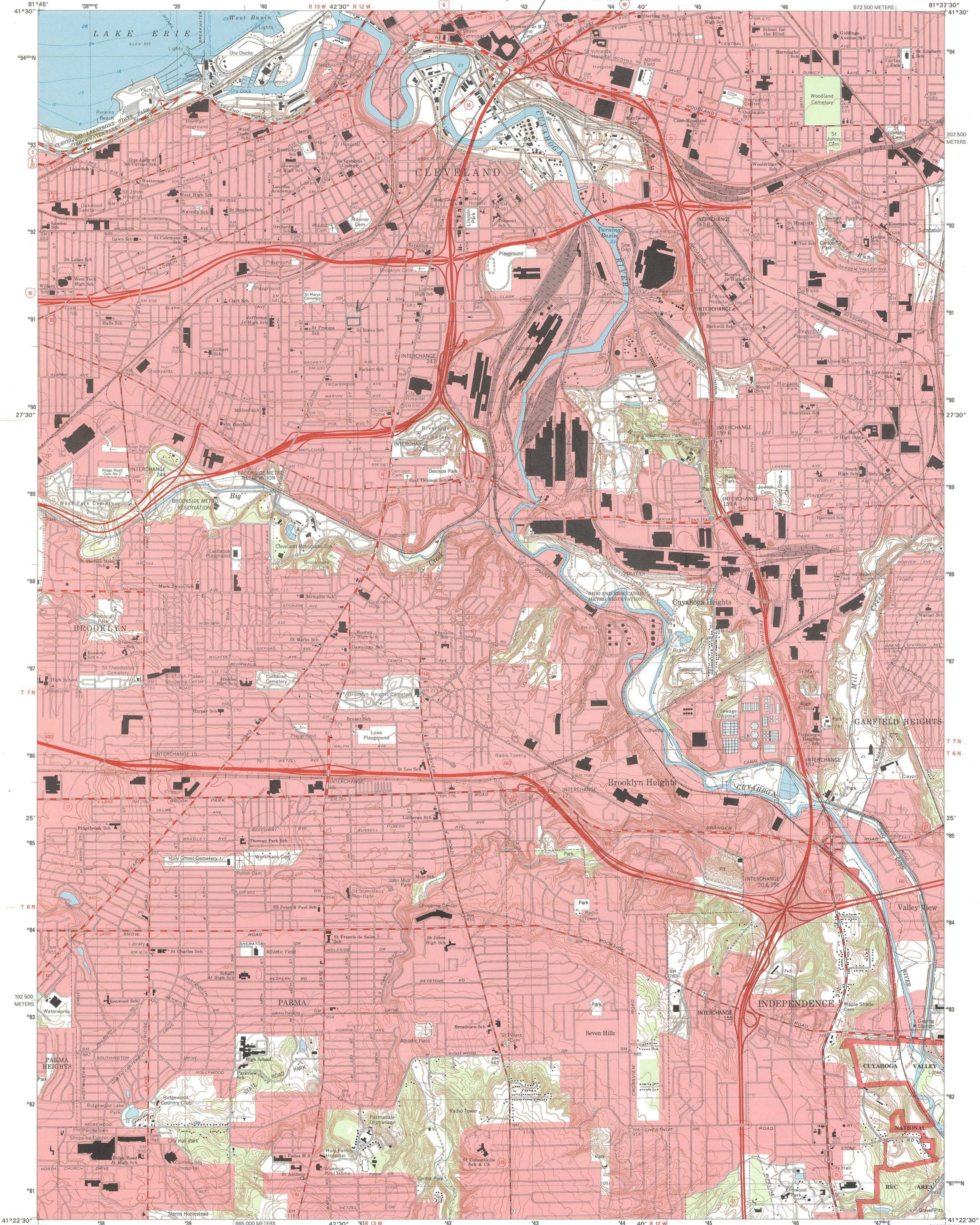
## Indestructible Institution Blankets

ALL WEIGHTS AND SIZES

Sold Direct to Public Institutions for Over Twenty-five Years  
More Than 50,000 Sold Per Year—Must Be Right

**Northern Ohio Blanket Mills**  
THE BECKMAN COMPANY  
CLEVELAND, OHIO



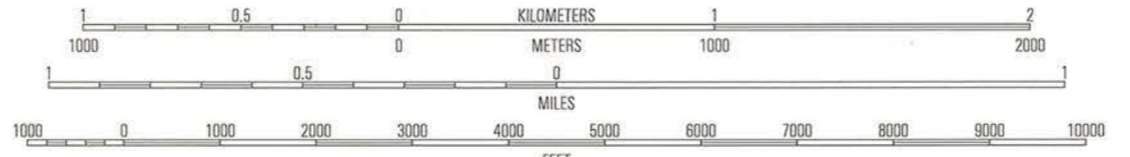
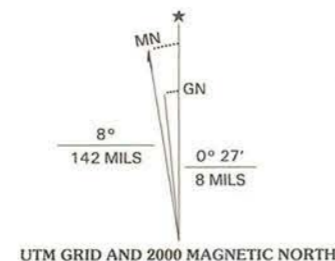


Produced by the United States Geological Survey Topography compiled 1952. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1994 and other sources, Public Land Survey System and survey control current as of 1963.

Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS Charts 35 (1959) and 554 (1962). This information is not intended for navigational purposes.

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 17 2 500-meter ticks: Ohio Coordinate System of 1983 (north zone) North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map. Entire area lies within the Connecticut Western Reserve. Dotted land lines established by private subdivision of the Connecticut Western Reserve. Landmark buildings verified 1963.



SCALE 1:24 000 CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929 TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048 DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET REFERENCE LEVEL 568 FEET; INTERNATIONAL GREAT LAKES DATUM THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE



ROAD CLASSIFICATION table with symbols for Primary highway, Secondary highway, Light-duty road, and Unimproved road.

Table with 8 columns and 2 rows for adjoining 7.5' quadrangle names.

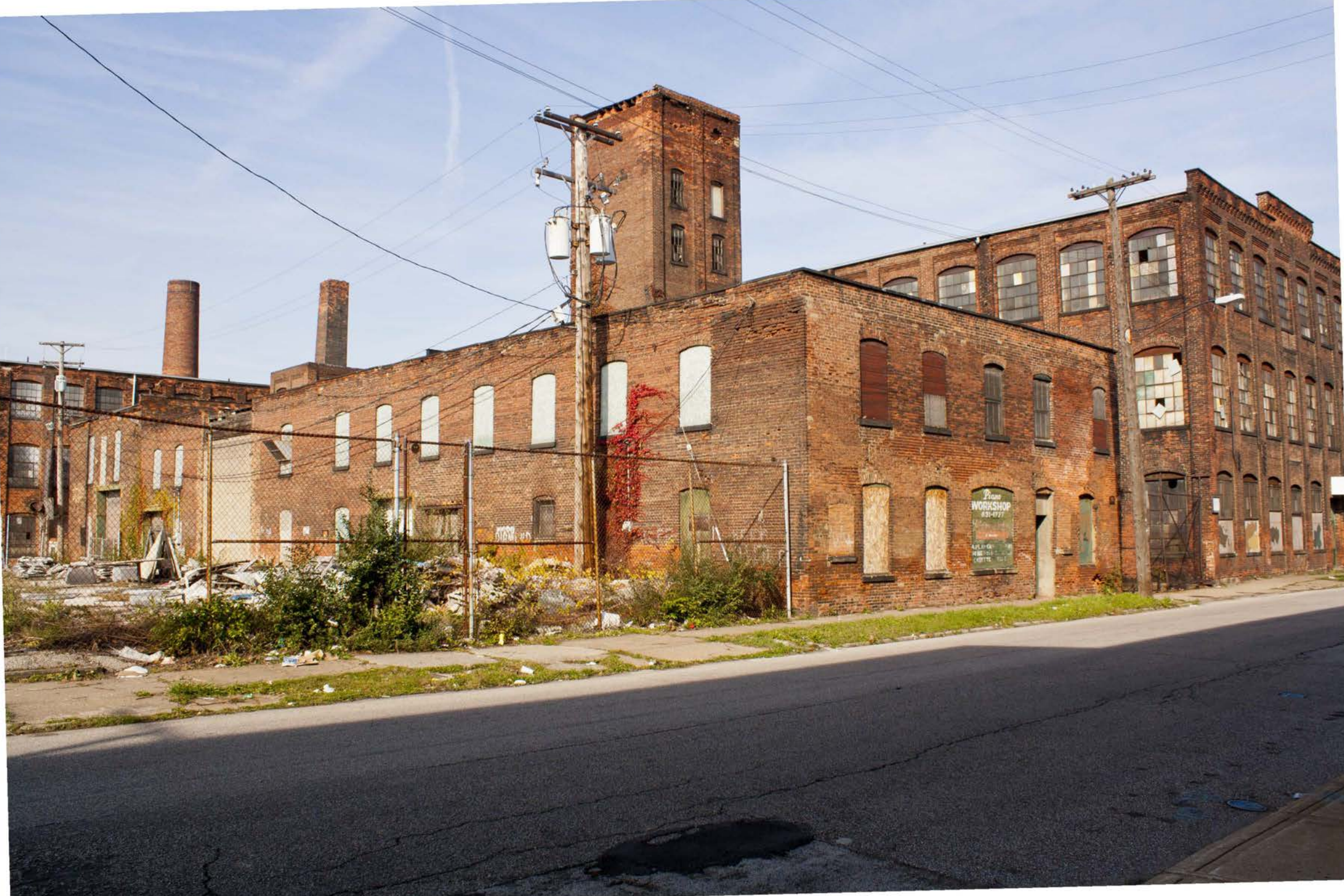
CLEVELAND SOUTH, OH 1994

NIMA 4661 NW-SERIES V852





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IN THIS ZONE  
EXCEPT FOR  
LOADING AND UNLOADING  
PASSENGERS

1000  
1000































EXIT

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NO OPEN FLAMES



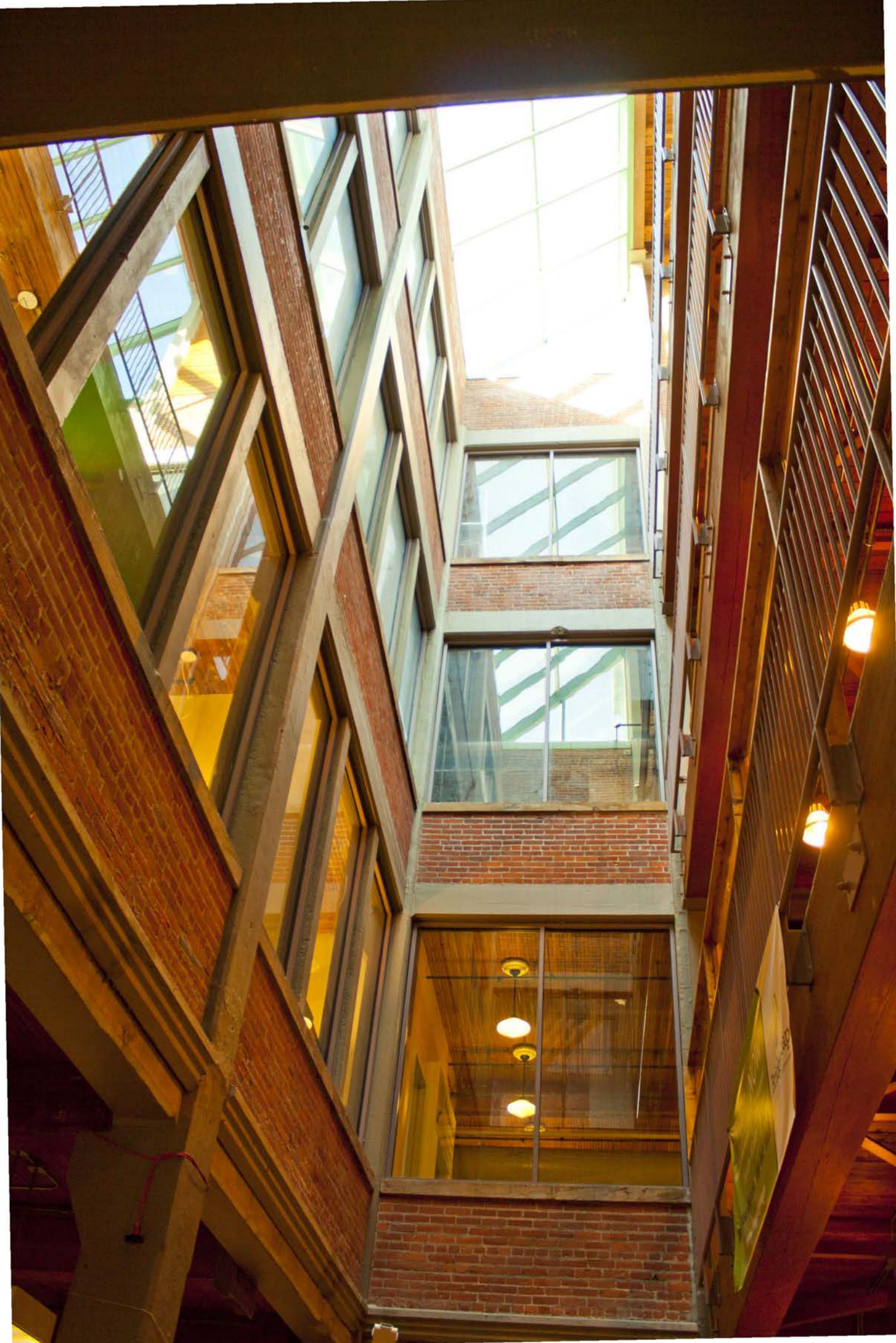
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Northern Ohio Blanket Mills  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Cuyahoga

DATE RECEIVED: 5/14/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/12/14  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/27/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/30/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000353

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: Y PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 6/27/14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A  
REVIEWER Patrick Andrew DISCIPLINE Historian  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 6/27/2014

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





CITY OF CLEVELAND  
**Office of the Council**

[www.clevelandcitycouncil.org](http://www.clevelandcitycouncil.org)

**Brian J. Cummins** COUNCIL MEMBER, WARD 14

COMMITTEES: Development, Planning & Sustainability • Health & Human Services  
Municipal Services & Properties • Utilities • Rules • Community Relations Board

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Barbara Powers  
Ohio Historic Preservation Office  
Ohio Historical Society  
800 E. 17<sup>th</sup> ave.  
Columbus, Ohio 44211

**Re: Northern Ohio Blanket Mills – 3167 Fulton rd.**

Ms. Powers,

Please accept this letter of support for the Northern Ohio Blanket Mills buildings to be listed on the National Register.

Jason Lin, owner of 3167 Fulton Road which is a part of the Northern Ohio Blanket Mills campus, also supports the application and can be reached at 216-323-9887 if necessary. Attached is his letter of support which is being sent via USPS.

Thank you for your consideration and please let us know if there is anything else that you need.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Cummins

**Ward Office** 3167 Fulton Road, #305, Cleveland, OH 44109

**City Hall** 601 Lakeside Avenue N.E., Room 220, Cleveland, OH 44114 • **Phone** (216) 664-4238 • **Fax** (216) 664-3837

**Email** [bcummins@citycouncil.org](mailto:bcummins@citycouncil.org)

March 20, 2014

Barbara Powers  
Ohio Historic Preservation Office  
Ohio Historical Society  
800 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Columbus, Ohio 43211

**Re: Northern Ohio Blanket Mills – 3167 Fulton Road, Cleveland, Ohio**

Ms. Powers:

Please accept this letter in support of Derek Ng and his consultants at Naylor Wellman, LLC for the nomination of the my property located at 3167 Fulton Road, Cleveland, to the National Register of Historic Places.

My building is part of the original Northern Ohio Blanket Mills facility which was split into two properties, one of which I own.

Again, I fully support Mr. Ng's efforts to secure funding to preserve his part of the property and to nominate the entire Northern Ohio Blanket Mills campus to the National Register of Historic Places and eventually repurpose and adaptively reuse his building in a manner that is respectful of its historical character.

Sincerely,

  
Jason Lin  
Owner  
Lin Omni-Clark Metro, LLC

216-323-9887

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
NPS TRANSMITTAL CHECK LIST

OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
800 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43211  
(614)-298-2000

The following materials are submitted on May 12, 2014  
For nomination of the Northern Ohio Brick to the National Register of  
Historic Places: Mills, Cuyahoga County, OH

- Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form  
 Paper  PDF
- Multiple Property Nomination Cover Document  
 Paper  PDF
- Multiple Property Nomination form  
 Paper  PDF
- Photographs  
 Prints  TIFFs
- CD with electronic images
- Original USGS map(s)  
 Paper  Digital
- Sketch map(s)/Photograph view map(s)/Floor plan(s)  
 Paper  PDF
- Piece(s) of correspondence  
 Paper  PDF
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS:

- Please provide a substantive review of this nomination
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objection(s) do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_  
Constitute a majority of property owners
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_



May 12, 2014

Ms. Carol D. Shull, Keeper of the  
National Register  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)  
Washington DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find three (3) new National Register nominations for Ohio. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the new nomination submissions.

NEW NOMINATION

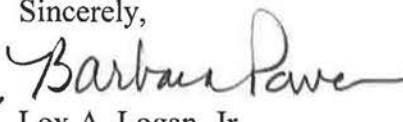
Northern Ohio Blanket Mills  
The Ambassador  
The Somerset Apartments

COUNTY

Cuyahoga  
Hamilton  
Hamilton

If you have questions or comments about these documents, please contact the National Register staff in the Ohio Historic Preservation Office at (614) 298-2000.

Sincerely,

*for* 

Lox A. Logan, Jr.  
Executive Director and CEO  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures

**OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*Ohio Historic Preservation Office*

800 East 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211 ph: 614.298.2000 fx: 614.298.2037

[www.ohiohistory.org](http://www.ohiohistory.org)